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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel To Propose 'Semiautonomy' Plan

TA1012055492 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[Report from Washington by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Excerpt] As a goodwill gesture, the Israeli delegation to negotiations with the Palestinians in Washington is proposing that the residents of the territories assume the exclusive management of education, health, social welfare, tourism, and municipal issues now, before the autonomy negotiations end.

The Israeli delegation was about to offer this "semiautonomy" to the Palestinian delegation this week and even brought five detailed portfolios on each of the above subjects to the current round of talks. The original intention was to hand them over to the Palestinian delegates, but when the Palestinians showed up with a reduced representation and started making demands for American intervention, the Israelis decided to withhold the offer.

The offer will be presented to the Palestinians in one of the coming working sessions with them.

There is serious pessimism in the Israeli delegation and a feeling that the negotiations with the Palestinians are stuck, mainly in view of the obstacles placed by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Israel, Jordan Said Ready To Sign Water Accord

TA1012005292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Hanni Shalev]

[Excerpt] Israel and Jordan have agreed in principle to aspire to sign a bilateral agreement on water issues even before the two countries sign an official peace treaty.

The agreement in principle was reached in the discussions of the subcommittee on water issues held in Washington in the framework of the bilateral negotiations between the two countries. Sources in Jerusalem have reported that the three subcommittees in the negotiations with Jordan—water, environment, and refugees—have been working seriously and have made substantive progress. "So far, this is the only ray of light in the current round of talks," a Jerusalem official said last night.

The sources reported that in the water discussions, the points of dispute between the two sides were clearly defined and the parties' stands regarding the just distribution of water were drafted. It was reported that the parties believe that a permanent arrangement on water issues can be attained in a short time and that this issue is so vital to the Jordanians that they will be willing to sign a separate agreement with Israel even before the talks are fully completed.

In the discussion of the delegation plenums, the two parties are continuing to debate Jordan's demand to reopen the territorial clause in the draft agenda, on which the parties were in agreement until Jordan reneged on its agreement. The Jordanians are demanding that the clause also mention Jerusalem and the "occupied Palestinian territories." Israel protested Jordan's backing away from the agreement and, at the same time, said that if the agreement is reopened, both sides should be allowed to append all of its clauses.

In the negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel presented a new draft of an agreed agenda. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation for negotiations with the Palestinians, presented the Palestinians with what he called a "mixed model" [last two words in English] of self-government. According to it, most of the affairs will be exclusively handled by the Palestinians; a few will remain under Israel's authority; and other issues, mainly water and land, will be jointly controlled by the two parties. [passage omitted]

Talks Boycott as Called 'Embarrassing'

TA0912153892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Israel has expressed regret at the decision by the Arab delegations to boycott the peace talks on the fifth anniversary of the intifadah. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that an announcement issued by Israeli delegation spokesman Yosi Gal said that Israel regrets the hypocritical and unhelpful approach by the Arab delegations and the waste of precious time in the peace process. Israel also expressed regret that the Syrian and Lebanese delegations did not announce beforehand that they would not be attending today's talks. Yosi Gal said that the limited Palestinian participation in the talks and today's boycott of the deliberations are embarrassing and disturbing to the peace talks.

Arab Chief Delegates Meet 8 Nov

JN0912215492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] In Washington, heads of the Arab delegations taking part in the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations have decided to suspend the sessions of negotiations today as the intifadah enters its sixth year and in memory of its martyrs.

Head of the Arab delegations made this decision during a coordination meeting they held last night at the Palestinian delegation's residence in Washington.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that a special prayer for the martyrs of the intifadah will be held in one of the mosques today. He added that during the meeting the Arab chief delegates

exchanged information and viewpoints on the progress of work in the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. He said that they stressed the continuation of the coordination process and the one Arab stand.

In another development, a responsible source in the Palestinian delegation said that the delegation actually received a written invitation to meet with U.S. President George Bush at the end of this round. The Palestinian source said that the U.S. Department of State notified the Palestinian delegation that it is seriously studying the ideas and viewpoints presented by the Palestinian delegation during its meeting yesterday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian and other officials and that it will soon notify the delegation of the U.S. viewpoint vis-a-vis the Palestinian demands. During this meeting, the Palestinian delegation pointed out the dangers threatening the peace process as a result of the absence of a U.S. role and because of the continued Israeli intransigence. The delegation also called for an immediate resumption of dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO.

Palestinian Negotiator Discusses Israeli Stand

NC1012000992 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Interview with Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, by correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] We begin this dialogue as the eighth round resumes in Washington. Has the Israeli side offered anything new so far?

[Al-Khatib] In light of the information we received in the previous round, we ended that round by giving the Israeli delegation a message in the hope that it would convey it to the Israeli Government, a message that asks for development, change, and resilience in the Israeli stand so a breakthrough can be achieved. Unfortunately, we have not seen in this round any new positive development in the Israeli stand.

The Israeli delegation gave us a memorandum containing an amended and detailed agenda, and we are now in the process of examining this agenda. Our first—and frank—impression is that there is no progress on the Israeli stand concerning the basic pivotal and controversial issues on the agenda.

[Al-Jundi] What are the features of the Israeli paper?

[Al-Khatib] As I said, it is an agenda. The first basic controversial point in previous agendas centered on the negotiations' goal and reference. We insist that the negotiations' reference be Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 for the entire process, including the interim and final stages. The Israeli stand is that the interim stage not be linked to Resolution 242. In fact, this new text is a repetition of the previous Israeli stand with one minor exception, namely that the Madrid invitation be regarded as a substitute for the clause on the negotiations' reference and goal.

[Al-Jundi] The Palestinian side has requested immediate U.S. and Russian intervention as sponsors of the peace negotiations. Do you believe that U.S. intervention could actually break the current deadlock?

[Al-Khatib] A total of 15 months passed without progress, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track. We felt the need for one of the conference's sponsors, particularly the United States, to assess the reasons for the deadlock and to intervene and save the talks from collapsing.

We have made three specific requests:

The first is for the United States to intervene, through its bilateral ties with Israel, to develop the Israeli stand to be more harmonious with the basis and references of the invitation and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The second request is for the United States to contribute to negotiations. We want the United States to call for a tripartite meeting of the U.S. sponsor and the Israeli and Palestinian sides for a joint discussion.

The third request is for the United States to intervene with Israel to take confidence-building measures, specifically to respect the human rights of the Palestinian citizens, who has been subjected to further Israeli oppression recently, in the occupied territories.

The United States showed some initial willingness to try but in the end said that it all depends on a consensus of the parties. We do not believe the Israelis are concerned about these proposals.

[Al-Jundi] Could we say that U.S. President George Bush's call for a meeting with the Arab and Israeli delegations at the end of this round is a stand affirming U.S. concern to provide momentum to the peace process even in the U.S. presidential transition?

[Al-Khatib] Undoubtedly, this call reflects a U.S. interest to achieve progress in the transitional period. However, progress does not come about by just holding meetings and (?observing) interest. Progress can be made if the United States upgrades the level of its practical interest in the negotiations by forwarding proposals and exercising pressure, especially on the Israeli side. If the meetings President Bush will conduct coincide with U.S. proposals and contributions, it will achieve progress. If these meetings are confined to protocol and moral aspects, however, it would be good but insufficient.

The problem is that we are in the process of discussing an interim stage and are waiting for a new U.S. Administration. We hope the U.S. contribution to this process will develop in the new administration, otherwise the process will be endangered.

[Al-Jundi] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that he expects an agreement to be signed with the Arab side in 1993. Do you believe that Rabin's optimism is based on the possibility of the Israelis being more positive?

[Al-Khatib] Regrettably, since Rabin took office we have noticed that there is a gap between the Israeli media policy and the policy actually presented to us at the negotiating table. If Rabin's statements were to be accompanied by similar stands at the negotiating table, this would have called for optimism. However, those Israeli statements that contain positive elements are not associated with similar stands at the negotiating table. We welcome the positive aspects of Rabin's statements, such as his (Yikenong) of the PLO with the Jewish Agency. We also welcomed the Israeli Knesset's positive voting against a law banning Israeli contacts with the PLO. However, we criticized Rabin's statements in which he held president Yasir 'Arafat responsible for hindering the negotiations. We asserted that president 'Arafat is our main driving force in the negotiations and that they need to understand this. The point is they need to link their stands and deeds.

Al-'Allaf: Golan Withdrawal Issue Blocking Talks

JN0912155692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Washington peace talks, said today that the eighth round of talks are still blocked over the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the preconditions being set by Israel.

Al-'Allaf told AFP that the Syrian document presented during the third round of talks last September has, since that time, constituted a basis for the talks and that this document deals with the solution on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338—that is, Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967.

Al-'Allaf said that the Israeli side has proposed amending a paragraph related to the clause on withdrawal from the Golan in the document, adding: We rejected this proposal, just as we did similar proposals, because they are not clear about the issue of withdrawal.

Al-'Allaf stated that Israel is still maneuvering with regard to the concept of withdrawal and insists on setting preconditions, such as withdrawal to what it calls safe and recognized borders and withdrawal to borders to be agreed upon, which conflicts with the two above resolutions.

Al-'Allaf added that the Syrian document asserts that if Israel withdraws completely from the occupied territories, then security arrangements can be made, provided these arrangements are equal and do not infringe on the sovereignty and rights of any party.

He said that there is disappointment after one year of talks, saying that six months have passed since the new Israeli Government came to power and the talks are still discussing self-evident facts.

Al-'Allaf said that Israel is still trying to distinguish between the tracks and give the impression that progress was made on one track to prompt the other negotiators to make concessions.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Officials Discuss Somalian Aid

NC0912074292 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, permanent Arab League delegate to the United Nations in New York, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Ambassador: Good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-al-Nasr] Welcome.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The UN Security Council adopted its recent resolution on Somalia allowing every method necessary to protect relief aid being sent to the Somali people. How do you view this resolution when the Somali people are experiencing a serious famine?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Although the international community is being criticized for a delay in offering assistance and adopting an effective measure to end the tragedy of the Somali people, we must welcome the UN Security Council step. The step the Council took last week complements an earlier measure to send a group of UN-supervised troops to Somalia—this group includes 500 Pakistani soldiers plus another 3,000 soldiers on their way to Somalia now. On the recent initiative of the United States and others, including some Arab countries, this step will help to provide protection for food aid as a first step. We can say there are two operations in Somalia: the original operation commissioned by the United Nations a few months back and the new operation, which we view as resolute and important. The troops are on their way to Somalia now. I hope they will succeed in their basic task of stopping the bloodshed and securing access to relief aid as well as in their limited task of providing a favorable atmosphere for national reconciliation so that Somalia can again occupy its place on the political map.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] After this major humanitarian step, what will be done to achieve national accord in Somalia and what kind of coordination is there between the Arab League and the United Nations on this?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Coordination is constant. Letters have been exchanged between Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and UN Secretary General Dr.

Bantu Bantu-Ghali. The Arab League is present in Somalia with medical teams plus food aid sent by the League in cooperation with certain Arab countries. Cooperating with the Arab League, Libya has sent a ship, Ibn- Bennabi, with 6,000 tons of food aid—flour, rice, and so on. Aid at the political level, the League is joining the United Nations in its effort to hold a conference later of all the warring parties to bring about national accord, set up a government, and provide the necessary stability to rebuild Somalia. The Arab League is following this issue daily. We can say there is hope.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Butrus-Ghali proposed an interim government in Somalia until an official government is elected. As the Arab League delegate to the United Nations, how does the League view this proposal?

[Abu-al-Nur] This is an important proposal. There are others that are also worthy. It is up to the Somali people to elect the government. The Somalis have already said they want to do so. The League welcomes any effort to restore peace and set up a government, even an interim one, in Somalia as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We thank you.

[Abu-al-Nur] Thank you.

'Abd-al-Majid, 'Amr Musa Comment

NC0912131192 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 9 (AFP)—Arab and Muslim leaders should hold a summit to discuss helping Bosnians if world efforts fail to end the crisis in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Arab League Secretary Hasan 'Abd-al-Majid told Wednesday's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper.

"Arab countries will not be on the sidelines of the new world order," he told the United Arab Emirates semi-official daily.

"An Arab-Muslim summit should be held if international efforts fail to end the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, also quoted by AL-ITTIHAD, said contacts were underway to hold such a summit but he gave no details.

The paper said they were reacting to a call by UAE President Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the United Nations to use force to stop the war between the Serbs and Bosnian Muslims.

"The international community must use force in Bosnia-Herzegovina to curb the aggressor and put an end to bloodshed and destruction," he said Monday.

"But this cannot be realized without sending multinational forces, to be mainly contributed by Arab and Muslim countries."

At their emergency talks in Jeddah last week, foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference called on the United Nations to approve the use of force to help the Bosnians.

Papers React to UN Intervention in Somalia

Countries' 'Astonishment' Noted

PM0812112092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Dec 92 p 17

[Ibrahim Saghiyah article: "Rich Kuwait and Even Poor Somalia"]

[Text] It has often been claimed that the United States played the part it did in Kuwait because of that Gulf country's wealth and because of the oil interests there. Today it may be claimed that the U.S. role in Somalia is a result of that African country's poverty. Tomorrow, in the event of intervention in Bosnia, it might be said that although Bosnia is not as rich as Kuwait nor as poor as Somalia, its being somewhere between the two has its own magic and attraction.

That is as far as analysts are concerned but then there are those who are readily astonished and who have a great capacity for astonishment. In that context, perhaps the strangest thing that has occurred in connection with the latest Somali development is the "astonishment" expressed by Sudanese Leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, known for nothing other than picking flowers and kissing children's cheeks. He is "astonished" because the United Nations wants to intervene militarily to check the famine in that afflicted country.

The Sudanese leader is one of those "astonished" at the use of armies and the fact that there are problems which require international intervention. Truthfully, he is one of those who only use the army when necessary.

According to al-Bashir, the Somali problem, on account of which all these steps have been taken, was on its way to a solution without Western trusteeship or trustees. Was the Sudanese precedent for rectifying matters not the best example of how we can solve our problems without foreign intervention?

By the Sudanese master's token, Saddam Hussayn could have solved the Kuwaiti problem had the "foreigners" not interfered. As to how he could have done that, only those who are authorities on fighting imperialism would know, those who would not lose any sleep if all the Kuwaiti people were exterminated. According to that same scenario, the ideal solution is what happened to Lebanon, whose problem and solution were left to a close brother, the result being that Lebanon became a trivial subservient banana republic with no rights other than the right to pledge loyalty and offer blessings.

What al-Bashir is not saying is being said by his Iranian allies who are also "astonished," because the solution

lies in collective "Islamic supervision." As such supervision has not materialized, what the Somalis ought to do is wait and indulge in wishful thinking about an Islamic solution while their men, women, and children are dying.

What astonishes us, and we are more entitled to be astonished, is that the Iranian "brothers" used every opportunity to prevent agreement among Muslims, let alone formation of a unified supervisory force to stop the tragedy and impose solutions. Iran's relations with all the Islamic countries today leave nothing more to be said. They represent a model such that, if it were followed by all Muslims, the Muslims would be impregnable to all interventions and ills!

Is it a coincidence that two regimes whose common denominator is violation of human rights and creation of domestic and regional problems, have taken that stance? Is it a coincidence that the two regimes most bent on violation and most experienced in that field are "astonished"?

It is really pathetic that "patriotism" and "hostility to imperialism," as seen by these two regimes and the parrots who follow them, have sunk to zero or below. They are now on a collision course, not with the Kuwaiti rich as the case was some months ago, but with the starving people of Somalia. That betrays the secret behind the glamorous ideological calls. The secret is that those who usurped power in Iraq, Sudan, Libya, and Iran want to sustain that power without being controlled by or accountable to the world.

First they are against Kuwait, then they are against Somalia, and always they are against life. That is revolutionary strategy.

Lack of Action in Bosnia Noted

PM0812113092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 92 p 17

[Editorial: "Between Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina"]

[Text] President George Bush has offered to send U.S. forces to maintain peace in Somalia under UN supervision. But despite our welcoming his decision, we have some criticisms of the timing and circumstances.

Why?

Because the move toward Somalia brings to mind a picture of the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. And it is impossible for us not to ask why only Somalia and not Bosnia-Herzegovina as well.

From the purely legal aspect, there are reasons for intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina much stronger than the reasons for intervention in Somalia. This is because Somalia's tragedy resulted from the system's collapse from within and the breakup of all centers of power. And although there is no doubt that the world should not stand with its hands tied and watch Somalia die, no clause in international law compels UN members to go beyond providing humanitarian aid.

But the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is completely different. This is because this is a sovereign independent state and a UN member being exposed to blatant aggression by a neighboring state. And no bad intentions and ill will can blank out the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and portray it as merely a civil war.

Serbian forces in Bosnia are fighting under the command of officers from the regular army of former Yugoslavia. And their weapons come directly from the arsenals owned and controlled by the Serbian government. Thus, if the United Nations does nothing to protect Bosnia-Herzegovina against aggression, the justifications for its existence as an international organization become subject to questions. This is because the United Nations was set up in the first place to be a collective security apparatus which compels its members to protect one another against aggression. And if any club or assembly refuses to perform its main duty, its members will find no reason to continue as members of it. And then they would look for other arrangements—which could mean new international chaos as a result of which states would be forced to assemble in the form of leagues ["unit] to fight or commit aggression.

What is strange and to some extent tormenting is that the United Nations considered—quickly—the Serbian aggression on Slovenia and Croatia to be something meriting intervention, while it continues to show indifference with regard to the similar aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

UN intervention ended the war against Slovenia and led to a halt in the fighting against Croatia, but the task of disarming the Serbian gangs and removing them from the territories they have usurped has not even begun, nor has anyone tried to begin it...

The important point here is that the United Nations has used two contradictory methods to deal with two very similar situations. And the world has never witnessed a contradiction in the international order in such a manner over the past five decades.

The very late effort to rescue Somalia from suicide is something which we welcome and must be supported. But it emphasizes the injustice with which the international community has dealt with Bosnia-Herzegovina so far.

Bush's Somalia Decision Examined

PM0812150892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 17

[Editorial: "Somalia and Procedural Obstacles"]

[Text] No one would disagree on the importance of the humanitarian dimension of President George Bush's

decision to send U.S. forces to Somalia to secure the delivery of food supplies to the starving and medical supplies to the sick.

But the U.S. decision has a a political dimension no less important than the humanitarian dimension. This is because President Bush's taking this decision days before his term in the White House comes to an end indicates that the "new world order" is still the firm base of U.S. strategy in the post-cold war world. indeed it is the future base for the Democratic administration as well, that is if we accept the U.S. tradition that no U.S. President should take an international decision in the "transition" phase without exploring the next president's opinion.

But the decision also accentuates the importance of simplifying the procedural formalities of the "new world order" strategy, if this order is required to be at the level of the international event it is expected to tackle with the required effectiveness and speed.

Actually Somalia's tragedy has shown that it is not enough for the UN Security Council to take a decision to intervene in a certain state, or for the U.S. President to provide military forces for this intervention to implement the decision at the required speed as long as the Security Council does not have its own deterrent force taking orders from it. And the U.S. President does not have the powers to send U.S. forces outside the country without going through constitutional channels which impose forcible delay on his military decision.

At this level the United States—in its capacity as the state most responsible for the "new world order"—shoulders a special responsibility in terms of speeding up the procedures of the international military resolution. While accepting that speeding up the resolution should not conflict in any way with the basic principle of U.S. democracy, that is the principle of separation of powers, it could be in the U.S. interests, more than the interests of world peace, for Congress to reduce the period specified for it to decide on any decision concerning military intervention abroad from 60 days to one or two weeks at the most. That is with regard to the military tasks required by international legitimacy and specified by a clear resolution from the UN Security Council.

And it is known that the end of the cold war era has ended the need to subject U.S. military intervention decisions—especially within the framework of international legitimacy—to protracted discussions by Congress. And Somalia's tragedy could be the required occasion to reexamine the formalities of these U.S. constitutional procedures in order to facilitate and speed up the intervention decision...if the "new world order" is to prove its usefulness in safeguarding world stability and security.

'Political Plan' Urged

PM0812170092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 92 p17

[Ghassan al-Imam article: "Mission 794 Is a Move To Establish the Principle of Interference by Force for Humanitarian Reasons"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It is pointless to prejudge the next U.S. President's likely initiatives while President Bush is still producing initiatives that dazzle the world and earn its support. He intervened in the Gulf to save international relations from the law of the jungle and to protect international interests from an auto-cratic ruler's control of oil and trade. Bush's intervention in Somalia today establishes a new principle in international relations, namely the principle of intervention by force for purely humanitarian reasons which carry no strategic gains for the United States. The intervention in Somalia paves the way for Bush or Clinton and Europe to embark on a similar humanitarian intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

What is really amazing is that the United Nations and the United States have not learned at all from the Lebanese experience. Intervention by force for humanitarian reasons or to impose peace and respect for international law remains a police and security measure with limited effects and results if it is not coupled with a clear political plan.

Peace was achieved in Lebanon only after an Arab plan for a political settlement was crystallized in the form of the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

A humanitarian plan requires a political plan. That does not necessarily mean that the United States or the United Nations should impose a solution on Iraq, Yugoslavia, or Somalia but international efforts should concentrate on finding such a solution as much as concentrating on the use of force in the Gulf or the supply of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia.

It would be ridiculous and disgraceful for the United Nations to become a kitchen for feeding hundreds of thousands of civilians besieged in the cities of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and for the United States to become an ambulance for moving the entire Somali people to restaurants and hospitals. Insistence on the humanitarian and supply aspect in the absence of a political plan only prolongs the suffering of the civilian population and renders the international intervention incapable of fulfilling its political objectives of peace and security. [passage omitted]

OAPEC Meeting Opens in Cairo 9 Dec

NC0912180492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Algerian Energy Minister Nassrou Mebti this morning opened the 49th session of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum

Exporting Countries, OAPEC, which was attended by the oil and energy ministers of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq, as well as a Libyan delegation.

In his speech, the Algerian energy minister affirmed that the 49th session is being held during special circumstances that demand that Arab oil-producing countries increase efforts to strengthen cooperation among AOPEC member states so that the organization can play an important role in this field. He said that conditions for cooperation among the Arab states are available and can be exploited, particularly in the fields of petroleum industries.

OAPEC Meeting Ends

NC0912211092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, has decided that the organization will keep its temporary headquarters in Cairo until measures are completed for its return to its permanent headquarters in Kuwait. The organization has been using Cairo as its temporary headquarters for the past two years because of the Gulf war.

At the conclusion of its meetings in Cairo today, the ministerial council decided to hold its next session in Damascus next year in response to the invitation of the Syrian oil and mineral resources minister. The date will be set following consultations between the chairman of the session and the organization's secretary general. Kuwait will chair the next session.

The OAPEC ministerial council approved the organization's budget for next year. It also decided to extend the term of OAPEC Secretary General 'Abd-al-'Aziz [name indistinct], a Saudi national, for another three years.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Gives Address on Intifadah Anniversary

LD0912204492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Radio address by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on anniversary of intifadah—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The intifadah is there, for whoever cares to learn, as a brilliant example—not open to criticism—of the people's formidable power and of our own people's unlimited capability to defy, persist, and rekindle the various [word indistinct] of revolution and resistance in facing up to the Zionist occupation, which at the end of the 20th century has come to represent the last bastion of hateful colonial and racist occupation.

Brothers and sisters, let us mention and remember that numerous Israeli officials headed by Rabin—when Rabin was defense minister at the time of U.S. confronted the intifadah—predicted, you should remember, that the intifadah would finish out in a matter of days. And throughout the past years the Israeli officials have not stopped issuing statements about the end of the intifadah, but our masses were lying in wait for them. One wave of or another, one threat after another, one blow after another, the intifadah was renewing itself exactly as our masses had [word indistinct], our heroes, the prisoners, and detainees who staged hunger strikes. They increased the glow of our blessed intifadah. The enemy admitted this. [passage omitted]

Throughout the five years, along with the rich years of struggle and the continuous genuine [word indistinct], the intifadah, the resistance, and the revolution alarmed the international scene of this century. At the appropriate moment, the word "Palestine" as a name, history, people, soil, heritage, and future has been imposed on the agenda of the world, which is living through a surge of [words indistinct] and a renewal of the new world order. [passage continued]

Brothers, beloved ones: The five years that have passed of the age of our blessed intifadah were years of onslaught, cohesion, initiative, and steadfastness. They were years of resistance and destruction of the props of occupation and they were years of laying foundations and bases and of adding to the structure of national authority—the authority of the state of Palestine—which is marking a historical and new moment in the modern history of our people and asserting the spontaneous cohesion of our masses at home and abroad under the banner of the PLO.

Thus, the bonds of national unity have gained more strength and become more inflexible. The rich and fertile dialogue and the creative interaction of the masses of a people who were sworn to be divided and partitioned by fences and barriers have proved that these people are not subject to divisions and that they are stronger than all the conspiracies, obstacles, and barriers. Once again they have presented themselves to the whole world as one nation, united in all the arenas at home and abroad under the banner of their revolution and their organization. The Palestinian nation has proved that despite an occupation armed to the teeth with modern weapons, owing to the aspirations and persistence of the masses, a nation that goes through their struggle and through the struggle of all their factions, heroic men and women from the south of Lebanon to Amin, Akir, Rafah and every village, town, and camp, and on all the soil of Palestine. This nation has given a unique example of heroic struggle for freedom and shown that it is not afraid or suppressed by the most tyrannical methods of fascism which the Zionist occupiers have adopted: deportation, killing, starvation, organized mass terrorism, assassinations, and intrigues. [passage omitted]

When our people imposed their cause on the international arena and when, o brothers and friends, the voice of our people rang out at the Madrid conference through their delegation and with the PLO, our masses (?regarded) the negotiations as a new battlefield that they must enter with perseverance and as the battles they must wage with bravery and (?distinction). They also regarded these negotiations as a long struggle, requiring patience, constancy, steadfastness, and vigilance. This also requires supporting and strengthening the struggle on the other fronts.

Do you understand me? I said this requires strengthening the struggle on the other fronts. Consequently, the glow and radiance of the intifadah has intensified and heroic epics have been recorded by our youths in their confrontation with the occupation in the towns, villages, and camps. The epics of resistance that have been recorded by our masses and by activists throughout the homeland and southern Lebanon and in all the places of revolution and struggle, have accompanyied and kept up with [word indistinct] and strengthening the determined struggle waged courageously, efficiently and [word indistinct] by our team at the negotiations with a view to imposing the presence of our people on the political map of the world. Our team has relied on the symphony of sacrifice and unified struggle toward the goal of freedom and independence.

This does not mean that we trust this enemy and its games. Indeed, this does not mean—and I repeat—that we trust this enemy and its games, and the same applies to its allies who are providing it with force and power in the form of money, arms, and support at all levels. As a result, (?our position was strengthened) after one year of negotiations, and no progress has been made in the Palestinian process. This position was (?strengthened) with the two cosponsors of the conference and the states and the international (?forces) taking part in the peace process and with the Israeli delegation itself.

Consequently, our leadership decided to give a public and clear message to its token and limited delegation at the current eighth round after a comprehensive assessment of the entire situation in which we directed our attention to the issue of Jerusalem and the attempts to exclude it from the negotiations, in addition to the international and legal authority they are evading with regard to the land, sovereignty, and authority in the transitional and final phases. We are lying in wait for them, we are lying in wait for them. [repeats himself]

O sisters, o brothers, while we stand now on the threshold of the sixth year of our heroic intifadah, we also stand before these growing challenges and before the difficult and historic moments that will determine whether or not we exist. The refusal of Israel—whether under the Shamir or Rabin administration—to face the moment of truth and to comply with the bases and rules of the peace process have shown the world that Israel refuses to accept the principle of withdrawing from our occupied land and that it refuses to recognize the rights of our people and that it seeks to achieve only one goal, namely to consecrate the occupation under new labels, to Judaize the land with settlements and settlers, to attack Islamic and Christian holy places in our country, and to violate human rights and the fourth Geneva convention.

Our delegation has grasped the intentions of the Israeli plan in all its racist dimensions, and has shown that Israel is striving to splinter the occupied land so that the hegemony of the Israeli occupation remains over the land, the people, and the holy places. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that this Israeli impudence and this flagrant challenge to the will of the international community and international legitimacy rely on the [words indistinct] the role of the cosponsors of the conference, and in particular the United States and its retreat to the policy of appeasing and favoring Israel, as rewards and prizes poured in in the form of economic, military, diplomatic, political, and media support for the Government of Israel, which is assassinating peace and eliminating the chances for settlement and solution. [passage omitted]

O brothers, our delegation has submitted and defended our firm principles and stances in a masterly way and with distinction, and was able to present the Palestinian stance sincerely and effectively. Throughout the year it has stood fast in the face of a mighty wave of the pressures of the problem, and has imposed our national plan for the transitional period on the negotiating table as the sole plan, based on the remit of the peace process, in harmony with the principles of international legitimacy, and formed on the basis of our national principles and the importance of international protection for our people and the implementation of the UN resolutions relevant to protection by international observers in our land, and other relevant resolutions.

We also (?stressed) in letters we recently sent to U.S. President George Bush and President-elect Clinton that Washington is called upon urgently to resume dialogue with the PLO and to lift the siege and the starvation of the Palestinian people and to take practical steps to rescue the peace process. This also applies to our messages and contacts with Russia, the European states, China, Japan, the nonaligned and African states, and all the Arab states and the Jerusalem Committee.

The course of events during a year of negotiations confronts everyone once again with these self-evident facts, which President Mitterrand and many world leaders and our friends on the international day of solidarity with Palestine stressed bravely and wisely a few days ago: the need to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and build its state, and the need to recognize and have a dialogue with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

We are entering the sixth year more determined to intensify our struggle on all fronts in order to step up the intifadah with the thrust of its masses and to promote

fierce confrontations with the occupation forces in order to engulf the land with [word indistinct] wrath against the usurper and occupier, and also in order to work to complete the building of our institutions and the foundations of the infrastructure of our economy.

What does this require, brothers? It requires the entrenchment of the highest forms of effective national unity among the various factions, forces, and groups fighting occupation on the basis of a committed and democratic dialogue. I repeat, brothers, what does this require? It requires the entrenchment of the highest forms of national unity. It requires what? It requires the entrenchment of the highest forms of effective national unity among the various factions, forces, and groups fighting occupation on the basis of a committed and democratic dialogue, on the basis of a democratic dialogue committed to the (?legitimacy) of our struggle. So unity is our shield and [words indistinct] unity with (?Fatah), the Red Eagles, the Black Lions, the Brigades [al-Kata'ib], al-Quds, al-Aqsa, [words indistinct], with the Muslim trend, [words indistinct] and with all the units, forces, and organizations.

We should see the unity of the sincere fighters and unity in the fight and sacrifice on the road to freedom and victory. We are aware that every possible effort must be made to provide all the forms of necessary support to strengthen and bolster the steadfastness of our masses and institutions despite the continuation of the state of siege which has been programmed and [word indistinct] in a bid to put pressure on the will of our people and our fighting masses.

Here we wonder: In whose interest is this siege and in whose interest are these pressures?

Let everyone know that despite all this, despite all this, despite all this, not one of us and not one among us will abandon claims on holy Jerusalem or relinquish one speck of the homeland's soil or any of our national rights, no matter how long the siege, the pressure, and the attempts to starve us last. [passage omitted]

Brothers, beloved ones: On the negotiation front, our delegations will continue at the bilateral and multilateral negotiations to confirm the stands approved at the sessions of the Palestine National Council and the Central Council. Our delegations will continue the struggle to develop Palestinian participation in the negotiations and also to let more of the sons of our people in the diaspora take part in the so-called working group, and also to assert the basic facts necessary for the start of the just peace process, which safeguards our inalienable national rights, and to reject all the attempts to procrastinate and the maneuvers to bypass the revolution by the Rabin government, as well as the bias of the American cosponsor in favor of Israel.

Our people, side by side with the gallant Lebanese people in the steadfast Lebanese south, will continue their steadfastness and their firm stand and resistance against the aggressive Israeli attacks and raids on them and on their villages and towns and our camps in the south. They stress their insistence on gaining their right to return to their homeland and achieving the right to self-determination and to build their independent state, with its capital in Holy Jerusalem, with its capital in Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Soldiers of the revolution, makers of the independence day, may the sixth year of the intifadah be a year of the masses of the intifadah and of a return to imposing the authority of the people in place of the authority of occupation! May the volcanoes of wrath erupt against the usurping occupier in every village, town, and camp! May the committees of youth, students, workers, professionals, academics, farmers, merchants, and craftsmen move in a blazing revolution of the masses and confront the occupation! [passage omitted]

Let us have more confrontations! Let us have more confrontations! Let us have escalation of the waves of the blessed intifadah and let us have more gallant resistance! Let us have more heroic resistance! Victory is forthcoming, forthcoming! The dawn is forthcoming, forthcoming! We have a date with dawn and with victory! [passage omitted]

It is revolution until victory, until victory, until victory!

Your brother, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Bethlehem Mayor Comments on Intifadah Anniversary

TA0912183792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 December 92

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Bethlehem on 9 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ilyas Frayj, how do the residents of the territories feel today after five years of intifadah?

[Frayj] The residents are full of bitterness and then full of...

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Despair.

[Frayj] No, skepticism toward Israel's intentions. A large number of people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip do not believe that Israel seeks peace. This makes the task of the Palestinian delegation almost impossible.

[Ben-Menahem] After five years of intifadah, do you see any chances for the achievement of peace?

[Frayj] First, I support continued negotiations with Israel until we reach a peaceful solution. The Israeli proposals are not only inadequate but lack substance [preceding word in English]. They contain nothing. We are talking about and hope that there will be a just and comprehensive peace.

[Ben-Menahem] What is the Palestinians' stance on peace?

[Frayj] The Palestinians are interested with utmost faith and sincerity in achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Peace means freedom. Peace means the right to self-determination. Peace means ending the Israeli Army's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nusaybah Sums Up 5 Years of Intifadah

TA0912161292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 92 p B2

[Interview with Dr. Sari Nusaybah, member of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, "on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the intifadah," by Yossi Torpstein; date and place not given]

[Text] [Torpstein] What important changes have occurred in the Palestinian situation since the beginning of the intifadah?

[Nusaybah] The most important change is that before the intifadah there was no peace process. We are closer today than five years ago to the termination of the occupation and to the realization of our sovereignty. The change is also evident in a new state of mind, which the intifadah translated into action. Upon the eruption of the intifadah the population began realizing its right to self-determination, which meant creating a political reality by ourselves and no longer waiting for an external element.

[Torpstein] The goal at the beginning of the intifadah was civil disobedience. Was it attained?

[Nusaybah] As far as cutting loose from the Israeli authorities, the Palestinians scored vast success in the first years. However, we failed to create alternative government structures, among other things, because we did not try to build a national governing mechanism.

[Torpstein] Are you referring to the popular committees?

[Nusaybah] The popular committees were essential, but they were only local governing committees. They failed to evolve on their own, and we failed to develop them. The National Command of the intifadah, too, failed to evolve into a national government in the true sense of the word. In my opinion, at some point, especially when Palestinian independence was declared in November 1988, a full provisional government with overseas branches should have been set up.

[Torpstein] In the book you wrote together with Mark Heller you say that Palestinian institutions constituting the vertical columns of a building were set up during the Jordanian and Israeli rule, and that since 1990 you have been attempting to lay down horizontal columns; in other words, to build a roof of Palestinian government institutions. Have you succeeded?

[Nusaybah] We did not finish building the roof of a Palestinian government. We should have done it then with enthusiasm and force, but some people objected to it. Had we unilaterally set up a provisional government at that time, we would be in a far better situation in the current negotiations. For example, we would be able to tell the Israelis that we do not need any kind of administrative council because we already have a government.

Conditions are different today, and a provisional government is no longer necessary. The moment we reach the stage we can merge our actions in various areas—such as agriculture, health, and education—we will be able to set up government ministries to deal with these issues. That will come as a result of the negotiations. In the meantime, we can prepare the ground for such horizontal bodies. We are now drawing plans to this effect with the help of professional teams. It is important that we formulate a concept of government modes. To that end, we must know what will be the nature of the administration we are supposed to establish.

[Torpstein] Some argue that the intifadah is over, and even note the exact date when it happened. Is the intifadah still alive?

[Nusaybah] Discussing semantics—whether this is an intifadah or what we should call it—is a waste of time. Today there is no longer an overall concept for the intifadah as there was in the first two years, but there is still a high motivation to struggle and make sacrifices. This potential was recharged, like one does with a battery, in the years of the occupation until it erupted. Today it is more subtle, and rekindling it calls for a spark in the form of a strategy, a guiding framework, or action. The spark may ignite on its own due to specific circumstances, such as the prisoners' strike.

[Torpstein] Are you not apprehensive about the growing split among the Palestinians?

[Nusaybah] The situation attests to widening polarization. There have always been differences of opinion in our society. However, when all is said and done, behind every member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the rejectionist organizations in the territories stands a Palestinian. I believe every Palestinian agrees with me, both consciously and subconsciously, on what is legal and what is not. They are not my enemies. We disagree over the method, not over the goal. The question is whether disagreement over the method will turn into a bloody conflict. That could happen, since as soon as there are clearer indications of a possible political solution the disagreements will become more acute, but I do not think that will be the case.

[Torpstein] Some say that the PLO in Tunis fears the emergence of an elected and representative leadership in the territories might bring its rule to an end.

[Nusaybah] In my opinion there is no difference between "outside" and "inside." There is a continuous and integral link between the outside leadership and the Palestinians in the territories. Any local leadership in the territories, even an elected one, will feel part of a large body and will require the legitimization of our basic

leadership, which is the PLO. If there is any development, it will only be toward tightening relations between the inside and the outside, not just on the moral and material levels but also with regard to the establishment of institutions. If an elected leadership emerges here as part of the interim arrangement, the link with the PLO in all spheres of life will be easier and more vital than it is today.

[Torpstein] Can anybody today order the end of the intifadah?

[Nusaybah] Some actions could be stopped, such as leaflets and strikes, but others cannot. An army may issue a clear order to its troops to do this or that, but you cannot do the same when dealing with masses. Admittedly, 'Arafat can order Fatah activists, including Black Panther squad members, to hold their fire and they will comply. However, some individual may disobey the order, say, because his brother was killed.

The situation in the field will change if the arrangement is acceptable to all and if the Israeli Army withdraws from the territories, thus eliminating the reason for confrontations. If the strikes are called off and one organization, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, continues to declare strikes—it may do that once or twice, but after that the Palestinian public will simply not accept it.

[Torpstein] Do you think an interim arrangement will be formulated within a reasonable period of time?

[Nusaybah] An agreement will presumably be attained. Israel is interested in attaining an agreement. Israel, or the ruling party, has a certain formula—a dated one—concerning an arrangement. It advocates territorial compromise and the establishment of some kind of Palestinian entity linked with Jordan. Although Israel is not proposing this today in the negotiations, this concept is no secret to us. We do not accept the position that is now being presented by Israel in the negotiations.

[Torpstein] How would you sum up the last five years in one word?

[Nusaybah] Tiring.

[Torpstein] As far as you are concerned, were they also satisfying?

[Nusaybah] I think nobody can be satisfied as long as we have not attained our goal. These five years have also been painful, but this appears to be necessary. The intifadah has advanced us, but the time has not yet come to determine the nature of its achievements.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Libyan Ties, al-Qadhdhafi

JN1012074692 Al-Sharqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 3-9 Dec 92 pp 24, 25

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, by Wa'il al-Abrashi; date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Abrashi] The West explained your strong personal relationship with al-Qadhdhafi against him in the Lockerbie affair. What is the nature of this relationship and what took place in your last meeting with him?

[Jibril] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and myself are friends in the full sense of the word. I know his family and he knows mine. My last meeting with the brother colonel was in 1989 in Libya. Differences emerged between us at that meeting. Yes, there were differences and we held a long dialogue.

In that dialogue, I told Col. al-Qadhdhafi: The West is blackmailing you to force you into making concessions. These concessions will never stop because, ultimately, they want to topple the 1 September revolution after depriving it of all its allies and friends. Do not yield to the blackmailing.

To be more accurate, I told Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: Please, study the history of 'Abd-al-Nasir. When 'Abd-al-Nasir embarked on the July revolution he was not an evil man who frightened the world; he was an Egyptian leader who wanted to develop his country. America challenged 'Abd-al-Nasir and the West antagonized him even before he presented himself on the Arab and international levels. This means that 'Abd-al-Nasir was pushed to antagonize the West even before nationalizing the Suez Canal.

I told Col. al-Qadhdhafi: The West wants agent rulers, and 'Abd-al-Nasir refused to be one of them. He insisted on being a national leader, so they fought him until he died in 1970.

I also told al-Qadhdhafi: It is better to die while your head is high like 'Abd-al-Nasir. Make no concessions to the West, otherwise, they will ask for more. Ultimately, all the sacrifices which you offered will be wasted.

There were differences between myself and al-Qadhdhafi on the concept of revolution. Therefore, I told him: Study 'Abd-al-Nasir well. I recall him saying: The size of the plot against us is big and we have to plan our moves. I told him: If you believe you can avoid the plot it will be all right. We are allies, and an ally should give his other ally time. Take three years, and then we will see if the concessions you are making are accepted by the United States and the West.

I then told him: I will leave you for three years. If we are still alive, we will look at and evaluate what has taken place.

What is taking place now affirms that the attack on Libya will not stop. We do not know what will happen in the future.

Incidentally, if any ruler approaches three things—oil, Arab unity, and Palestine—the West will punish him until he falls. And history provides evidence of this.

[Al-Abrashi] Have you met with al-Qadhdhafi since?

[Jibril] After that meeting, I never visited Libya. This, however, does not mean that we separated. No, this is only a disagreement on the course. We understand the circumstances through which Col. al-Qadhdhafi is now passing. He still sends me his greetings with any person who comes from Libya. I told him that we are ready to die in Libya in defense of it. We are not mercenaries, but owners of a cause. We will do exactly as we did in the Chadian war.

[Al-Abrashi] Did you not meet with him outside Libya?

[Jibril] Yes, we met. In 1990, he stopped over in Damascus en route to Baghdad to attend a summit meeting. In Damascus, the colonel asked to see me and I met with him at his request. The meeting aimed at cooling the atmosphere. My relationship with the Libyan leadership is good and strong and my relationship with Col. al-Qadhdhafi is revolutionary; it is a militant relationship.

[Al-Abrashi] Did al-Qadhdhafi give you large amounts of financial aid, and did Libya stop this aid as it announced?

[Jibril] I do not deny that we received aid from Libya over the past years. They gave us everything—weapons, hardware, and money. They provided us with everything they could.

However, over the past two years, the financial aid was reduced until it stopped completely. In fact, we understand Libya's circumstances and position, which are the result of circumstances that are outside its will.

[Al-Abrashi] What is the situation of your camps inside Libya?

[Jibril] We did not have any camp on Libyan territory. However, when Libya was the target of an American-international conspiracy from the North and from the South through Chad, we dispatched 2,000 fighters from the PFLP-GC. These fighters were deployed in the Libyan desert on the border with Chad to restore the Aozou region. When these fighters accomplished their mission successfully, they returned to their bases in Lebanon and Syria.

[Al-Abrashi] Was it wise to involve Palestinian fighters in a war which they had nothing to do with at a time when the Palestinian revolution needed all the support it could get from any side? Was the Chadian war fair in your opinion?

[Jibril] We were convinced that Chadian leader Hissein Habre was moving against Libya in accordance with an American-French conspiracy. If you read the book "The Veil" [al-hijab] and many other books, published recently, you will find that America and France endeavored to topple al-Qadhdhafi from the South after their failure to topple him from the North across the Gulf of Surt. We were aware of this conspiracy.

We were eager to safeguard the 1 September revolution. Our fighters were convinced that by supporting Libya in the war against Chad they would not be far from the land of Palestine, because Libya's fall would affect us greatly.

[Al-Abrashi] What are your expectations with regard to the Libyan crisis with the West?

[Jibril] The Americans and the West want to topple al-Qadhdhafi regardless of the concessions he makes. Libya is innocent of the Lockerbie affair. This, as well as our innocence of the same accusation, will be proven. I am afraid that the concessions have deprived Libya of many things. Lockerbie is a roving charge which they want to use against all parties in order to subjugate them.

I know that Col. al-Qadhdhafi is sad because his friends abandoned him. Libya, for example, approached the Arab Maghreb Union, and al-Qadhdhafi believed that Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco would help in clearing the atmosphere with Europe and America. These three states, regrettably, did not support Libya, and Libya became mortgaged to these countries within the Arab Maghreb Union.

[Al-Abrashi] Were you affected by al-Qadhdhafi's attempts to come closer to the West?

[Jibril] Of course. This took place at our expense. We were really harmed. They stopped the financial aid, but we understand the colonel's circumstances.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Foreign Ministers Meet in Dhaka

BK0912160192 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers have started arriving in Dhaka to attend a two-day meeting which begins tomorrow despite the postponement of the summit. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told newsmen in Dhaka this evening that the Indian minister of state for external affairs, R.L. Bhatia, arrived this afternoon while the

foreign minister of Maldives, Fathulla Jameel; Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath; and Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo arrived this evening. Foreign Affairs Adviser of Nepal, Professor (Ragunath Sanal) is expected to arrive tonight. Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Lyonpo Tsering has been in Bangladesh since Sunday. The foreign secretary, who is also the new chairman of the SAARC Standing Committee, said the three-day long foreign secretaries meeting ended today after preparing a draft of the agenda and report of the SAARC summit. The agenda and report will be placed before the meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers. Regarding the summit's postponement, Reaz Rahmen said this decision was made at the highest political level and was announced by the Sri Lankan president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, the current SAARC chairman.

India's Bhatia Comments on Summit

BK1012050092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has said that the postponement of the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Affairs] summit will not affect the ideals of SAARC. He was speaking to newsmen on his arrival in Dhaka yesterday to attend the ministerial council meeting. Mr. Bhatia said Mr. Narasimha Rao could not come due to the prevailing situation in the country, but he was carrying a message from Mr. Rao to the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia. Mr. Bhatia said it has been decided to postpone the summit because the SAARC charter requires the presence of all heads of state and government.

Algeria

Committee Issues Report on Boudiaf Assassination

LD0912230392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] [Announcer] Ladies and gentlemen, as we promised you at the beginning of our newscast, we have with us in the studio Rezzak Bara, spokesman for the committee [of inquiry into the assassination of former leader Mohamed Boudiaf], and Tarib Taalibi, alias Si Allel, a member of the committee. The committee's spokesman will present to you a summary of the final report.

[Bara] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters, on behalf of the national committee of inquiry into the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf—may God have mercy on his soul—I would like to thank you for inviting me to make some clarifications about the work of the committee. As you said at the beginning of the newscast, the national committee of inquiry today handed to the Higher Council of State and the justice minister its final report on the conclusions it has reached. It also has paid a courtesy visit to the wife of the late Mohamed Boudiaf.

The report, which is about 100 pages long, includes five parts, which are as follows: The first part is entitled: The Role of the Inquiry Committee and Its Work. After recalling the gravity of the tragic incident that led to the death of President Mohamed Boudiaf, which was received with sentiments of indignation and condemnation by all the sons and daughters of our homeland, who condemned the vile crime and demanded that the truth be exposed and that harsh punishment be prescribed to the perpetrators, the committee reviewed in this part all the work and investigation it carried out, taking into consideration the role assigned to it in accordance with the legislative decree that established the committee.

The work can be summarized as follows:

1. Hearing civilian and military witnesses of various ranks and levels who had direct or indirect connection with organizing the president's visit to the eastern part of the country and assuming responsibility for his security and protection, as well as the political figures who exercised the authority of managing the affairs of the country, particularly the leaders who shared with President Boudiaf the burden of state duties.

2. The movements of the committee to inspect the scene of the crime in Annaba.

3. Twice questioning Boumaarafi Lembarek, the perpetrator of the act, at the Serkadji institution.

4. Having a psychological test on the perpetrator carried out by specialists from Morocco and Algeria.

5. Utilizing the letters we received from a number of citizens via a post office box opened with the aim of obtaining useful information about the assassination. Among the hundreds of letters we received, the committee did not find even one letter that could benefit the inquiry in a serious way.

6. Utilizing all the written, audio, and visual documents that came to the committee from various sources.

The legislative decree of 4 July 1992 instructed the committee to focus on the circumstances of the assassination of President Boudiaf and uncover the identities of the perpetrators, instigators, and planners. In view of the authority vested in it, the committee exercised all its authority to carry out its mission in complete freedom and without any pressure or obstruction by any side.

The second part of the report, which concerns the circumstances of the assassination of the late Mohamed Boudiaf, deals in detail with the presidential security apparatus, its role and tasks to protect the president, and its relationship with other bodies, as well as its responsibility for the material and technical preparations for the president's visit. It then follows up on the Annaba visit from the date it was decided on, passing through the various stages of preparation, and ending with the assassination, highlighting the serious shortcomings, negligence, and lack of coordination among the various security services, particularly the Special Intervention Group within the president's close bodyguards.

Then comes the third part of the report, which deals with Boumaarafi Lembarek, the perpetrator of the act, with a detailed analysis of his character, his family and social environment, and his career. Through questioning him, through his statements and talks, and through what was stated in the psychological test, it transpired that Boumaarafi Lembarek is of sound mind, and justifies his act by religious inclinations under a political cover. Despite persistently saying he committed his crime without instigation or participation, his contradictions made the committee dismiss the theory of an isolated act.

In the fourth part of the report, the committee went into an analysis of the political situation in the country, particularly the circumstances that evoked the setting up of a Higher Council of State and the assumption of the position of head of state by the late Mohamed Boudiaf.

The committee ended its report in part five, which includes the conclusions it has reached:

1. The committee refuted the rumors and interpretations that were circulated about the assassination, and it became certain that the only person who fired bullets at the president was Boumaarafi Lembarek. Also, the only person who died at the hall of culture in Annaba was the martyr Mohamed Boudiaf.

2. Faced with the gross negligence of the presidential security services, which made it easy for the killer to perpetrate the crime, the committee asked whether there

was a connection between the carelessness and the assassination. However, the committee did not come upon any evidence that would prove that the mistakes were made deliberately.

3. Despite Boumaarafi's assurance that he carried out the act on his own, the committee dismissed the theory of an isolated act because the crime of assassinating a head of state generally, and the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf in particular, is regarded as a political crime.

4. On the basis of the above, the committee had to answer the following essential question: Who benefits from the crime? In view of the circumstances under which the Higher Council of State exercised the authority of running the country and the general line drawn by the late Boudiaf, represented in fundamental changes, the beneficiaries are primarily those in the Islamic Salvation Front—who are referred to openly in Boumaarafi's letter dated 27 July 1992—before whom the path to seize power was cut off, as well as those whose interests and positions within and outside authority were threatened by the fundamental changes and the line represented by President Mohamed Boudiaf, may God have mercy on his soul.

This is the end of the statement. That was a brief summary of the report. For further examination of its content, the main parts will be released to the press on 12 December, God willing, at the offices of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group.

Ali Kafi, Yemeni Special Envoy Discuss Relations

LD0912182192 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers 9/12/92 (APS)—Ali Kafi, president of the Higher State Committee (HCE), audienced on Tuesday Yahia Hussyn al-Arichi, state minister in charge of State Council's affairs in the Republic of Yemen and special envoy of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Following this audience, the Yemenite minister declared that his visit to Algeria falls in the frame of reinforcing relations between Algeria and Yemen. These relations, he said, are "close" and linked to "a common militant passed. Yemen, he said, follows with interest the developments occuring in Algeria because of their impact on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries". He also underlined that his visit to Algeria was an occasion for him to inform "our brothers in Algeria and the president of the HCE about developments occuring in Yemen after its union and the preparation of the forthcoming elections. The Arab nation, he said, must take its responsibilities and accomplish its mission which consists in remediating to weaknesses noted on the [word indistinct] scene so as to recover its solidarity . "The talks I had with Ali Kafi reinforced my optimism about a better future of the Arab nation".

'Terrorists' Killed in Clashes With Police

LD0912221592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Today at 1030, a terrorist group consisting of seven people tried to storm the headquarters of the national gendarmerie squad in El Ogla-Gasses municipality, situated between Teboesa and Khenchela. There was a fierce response from the national gendarmerie members. They killed three terrorists and recovered an AK-47 rifle and two Beretta automatic handguns. The rest of the gang fled in a car stolen yesterday in Teboesa. A national gendarmerie patrol pursued them and clashed with them. Three other terrorists were killed and three Beretta automatic handguns were recovered. One terrorists is still on the run in the mountainous region and the search for him continues.

It transpires that the recovered AK-47 rifle was the same one stolen during the storming of the Guemar border post on 29 November 1991. [passage omitted] It is worth mentioning that this operation did not result in any casualties in the ranks of the national gendarmerie or citizens despite the fact that today is market day in El Ogla-Gasses municipality.

Prime Minister's Adviser Appointed Spokesman

LD0912182992 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, Dec 9 (APS)—The head of government, Belaid Abdesselam, designated Tuesday his minister adviser, Mesmoud Ait Chaalal, as spokesman of the government and decided to institute a procedure of accreditation to the services of the head of government. This decision which has been announced at the end of the Council of Government, is the first of its kind. The nomination of Ait Chaalal, which was expected in the press milieux which particularly suffered a deficit of communication due mainly to the absence of an interlocuter likely to speak on behalf of the government, answers a double concern: Fill the deficit that is harmful for the government action and inaugurate new traditions in relations between political members and the press [words indistinct]. By deciding to make one of its members speak whenever it wants to confirm, deny or give the necessary informations, the government intends to occupy the mediatic space, assure a better cohesion of the discourse and a more efficient management of information at the level of timing.

Egypt

Israeli Agricultural Minister Visits

Meets Foreign Minister

NC0812172192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1431 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'agov Tsur, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The foreign minister said after the meeting that they discussed the Palestinian issue and the bilateral and multilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Ya'aqov Tsur said he and Mubarak exchanged views on the peace process. He added that they shared the view on the need to make progress in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in two stages: first, self-government, and second, a permanent solution based on the resolutions adopted in Camp David and Madrid.

The Israeli agriculture minister said that without the Egyptian-Israeli peace accord, it would have been impossible to reach the Madrid stage and start negotiations with the Palestinians and Arab countries.

He said: Israel proposes to the Palestinians to accept the first stage on which we both agreed in Madrid, which means self-government. At that stage, leaders will be elected in the occupied territories to take over and run the self-government and negotiations on a final solution will begin three years later. We are proposing that this be accepted to build a bridge of confidence between Israel and the Palestinians.

He added: History has established that we are neighbors, which means it is important to reach a compromise solution. Otherwise we will miss this opportunity while there is an Israeli Government willing to reach a compromise solution and an accord with the Palestinians. For our part, we will continue the negotiations.

Answering a question from MENA on the status of settlements during the interim period, he said: We are not building new settlements. Final borders will not be decided in the transitional period. The Israeli Government does not intend to build new settlements in the occupied territories as a positive gesture toward the Palestinians so that they will reach an agreement with us and more bridges of confidence can be built between the two sides.

He added: We have not yet reached the stage of discussing details and we hope that the Palestinians will accept the two-stage framework. After the interim stage has been accepted, we will be able to develop our understanding. The Palestinians must realize that they are negotiating with a moderate government that wants, looks forward to, and works for peace.

For his part, 'Amr Musa emphasized that the entire peace process is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Within this context, he said, various tracks of negotiations, including the Palestinian track, which is based on two stages, take place. He said that what is currently required is specific progress toward agreement on the start of the interim period so that negotiations will achieve progress.

Mubarak

NC0912143392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tsur said his meeting with President Mubarak this morning was characterized by complete agreement on the need to move the peace process forward. He added that the president voiced an commitment, as well as that of Egypt, to support the peace process and work for its progress. The president also expressed his belief that peace will eventually be established and that it requires patience and perseverance in spite of the obstacles.

The Israeli minister said he and Dr. Yusuf Wali reported to the president on the outcome of the Egyptian-Israeli Joint Agricultural Committee meeting, which dealt with expanded cooperation in the agricultural field.

He added that he conveyed to President Mubarak the Israeli prime minister's greetings and appreciation for the special role Egypt is playing in the peace process.

Minister Tsur said Israel is willing to achieve peace and that all that is needed is to apply the transitional period agreement concerning self-government and to carry out elections to choose the leaders of the occupied territories. We trust that once we reach this stage, the Palestinians will have the right to choose their leaders, who can later be developed, he said.

He added that the road to peace must go through the transitional period, which involves self-government led by elected leaders. We are waiting for Palestinian approval so that we can have negotiations on the details of self-government and prepare for the electoral system, he added.

We can agree during the third year of the self-government on a permanent solution. We will not stop at the transitional period agreement, because we have to study together the developments after it ends, he said.

When the Palestinians agree to accept the transitional period, we hope this will pave the way for a discussion on solutions to Palestinians needs. However, he stressed, they have to accept the transitional period first. Some may say that we are not discussing the issue of the borders or the final status. This is true about the transitional period; that is the very nature of a transitional agreement, he contended.

The Israeli minister was asked what the Israeli stand would be if the PLO won an overwhelming victory in the elections. He replied: We are willing to accept whatever results these elections may bring. This is what free elections are all about. It is their right, and we are prepared for that. He remarked, however, that the Israeli Government will supervise the elections.

We believe that the people living in the occupied territories are fully entitled to elect leaders who come from

the land on which they live, he said, adding: I am certain that this development will cause some commotion that is bound to trigger a very important change in the region.

Egyptian reporters asked Tzur if he was serious when he said Israel would accept whatever results the proposed elections produce. He responded: Yes.

Asked about the outcome of the talks on Egyptian-Israeli agricultural cooperation, Tzur said they aim to expand cooperation and double the number of Egyptian university graduates training in Israel.

He said: We will set up a cooperation center in al-Nubariyah in collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry to train and expand the scope of joint scientific research. He remarked that the project is three-sided and that it will be funded largely by the United States. We will initially use Egyptian and Israeli funds, he said.

He concluded: We hope this cooperation will act as a model for developing cooperation in other fields.

Mubarak: Syrians Want Peace

TA0912200892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak believes that Syria wants peace. In a meeting with Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur in Cairo, President Mubarak expressed satisfaction with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy on the peace process. He called on Israel to be patient. Moshe Nesterbeum reports from Cairo:

[Nesterbeum] Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur arrived at the Egyptian president's private residence to discuss the peace process. Mubarak ignored protocol and invited the Israeli guest to his home. The meeting, which lasted for almost an hour, dealt with the Syrian and Palestinian positions on the peace negotiations. President Mubarak told his guest that Israel does not have to make additional concessions in the negotiations with the Palestinians. [passage as heard] He reiterated his position that conditions in the Middle East are ripe for progress in the negotiations and stressed that his remarks are based on talks with additional leaders in the region.

In the morning, President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's commitment to the peace agreement and said that in his talks with President al-Asad he received the impression that the Syrians also want peace and that there will be no more war. President Mubarak stressed that he is aware that things are progressing slowly, but called on the Israeli side to be patient.

Musa Announces 'New Formula' for Pan-Arab Security

NC0912160492 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that the Arab League, acting on an Egyptian proposal, is currently preparing a new formula for pan-Arab security. The formula will be completed this month and discussed by all Arab countries, including Iraq, at the Arab League's new session in March.

In a statement yesterday to the People's Assembly's Arab Affairs Committee, Foreign Relations Committee, and National Security Committee, Musa said the possibility of making progress in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations does exist. He said Egypt is eager for the talks not to fail because they are the only way to solve the Middle East problem under the new world order.

On Somalia, Musa said that developments in that country are a result of internal conspiracy against the Somali entity, not foreign aggression.

U.S. Reportedly 'Refused' to Extradite 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC0912202592 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1942 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Islamic weekly AL-NUR reports in its issue tomorrow that U.S. authorities refused to extradite Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to Egypt because he now holds U.S. citizenship following his marriage to an American woman. The paper says it is not possible to hand over an American citizen to a foreign country for trial.

The Egyptian authorities have asked the U.S. Government through diplomatic channels to extradite Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman so that he can appear before the Higher State Security Court. [passage omitted]

Somalia Operation Called Sign of Arab 'Impotence'

NC0912155992 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 8

[From Sabawah Ahmad Sabawah column "Close-up": "Somalia's Storm"]

[Text] The military operation being undertaken by U.S. troops to open the way for the necessary humanitarian aid to save more than a million Somalis, thousands of whom are dying daily from starvation, is the second largest U.S. operation in the region.

The first was the "Desert Storm" operation, which had military, political, and international implications, and was staged two years ago to liberate Kuwait and destroy the Iraqi military machine. The second operation is to liberate the Somali people from famine and the control of their military leaders, who have turned into armed gangs that control the distribution of food and humanitarian aid. It is primarily a humanitarian operation, or at least this is what President George Bush has said. The U.S. President has also promised that the American

[illegible] will withdraw by 20 January at the latest, leaving the UN forces the task of stabilizing the political situation in Somalia.

President Bush was eager in the Somalia operation to have the United States send its troops within the context of a resolution issued by the Security Council. Forces from African and European countries will also take part in this operation. U.S. forces, however, will shoulder the major military burden of preparing the appropriate climate for the distribution of humanitarian aid after matters reached a level where international relief organizations were compelled to pay bribes or yield quantities of food aid to the armed Somali gangs.

It was not surprising to see these Somali groups oppose the UN intervention by force and the landing of U.S. forces on Somali territories under the flimsy excuse of opposing colonialism and foreign control. What imperialism or control is worse than the Somali's own barbarism with each other that has reached the extent of death from starvation?!

The importance of the Somali operation is not limited to its humanitarian aspects, which no one can help but support, but goes much beyond this in view of the absence of a legitimate Somali government and of the control exercised by armed gangs, which might disappear at times but then reappear after UN forces leave or large parts of them withdraw.

The operation in Somalia, which is an Arab League member, is the second major operation that is taking place in the Arab homeland. The real significance that should not escape our attention is the fact that the deterioration of the Arab situation and the Arab establishments' impotence have reached such a lamentable and worrying level.

As to why the United States has chosen to throw its weight behind the Somali operation while it has so far desisted from intervening effectively to save the Muslims of Bosnia is something that requires a clear explanation, particularly since humanitarian conditions in Bosnia have reached a level so bad it cannot be ignored.

'No Hope' of Operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

NC1012083292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 3

[Sa'id 'Abd-al-Khaliq column: "The Crime of the Age"]

[Excerpts] The United States used the United Nations to intervene militarily in the Gulf war, expel the Iraqi aggressors from Kuwait, and impose harsh sanctions on Iraq. The sanctions are still in force under the UN flag.

The United States also used the United Nations to intervene militarily in the Somali war, feed the hungry Somalis, and stop the civil war the among battling political factions.

Before that, the United States supplied the Afghan mujahidin with weapons and ammunition when the Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. The United Nations did not object and the United States prevailed in this task, which suited it.

As REUTER said, the United Nations has become the legitimate fig leaf to which some governments resort to implement the tasks suiting them.

This happened in the Gulf, Somalia, and before that in Afghanistan. There is no hope that the same action will be taken to rescue the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who daily are facing genocide under the eyes of the United Nations and the so-called international legitimacy. There is no hope for the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations, the Security Council, the London Conference, or the Geneva Convention to stop the crime of the age in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This crime is unprecedented.

It is no secret that the United Nations is working to downgrade the issue of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It also is no secret that there is a tendency at the United Nations not to implement Article 42 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which permits the use of military force to implement UN resolutions. The United States used this article to liberate Kuwait. It has used it to send its forces in a relatively easy operation to stop the guerrilla warfare in Somalia. This article is not being used to rescue the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This, gentlemen, is in short the new order of the United Nations.

The United Nations acts according to the instructions issued to it by the White House. The Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina do not ask the United Nations to send military forces to their country. They ask for weapons—only weapons—to defend themselves against the barbarity of the Serbs, who possess the arms factories they inherited from the dissolved state of Yugoslavia. The Serbs also are receiving weapons from Romania and Russia. They have stocks of weapons that can last for three years. [passage omitted]

U.S. Efforts in 'Afro-American Horn' Viewed

NC0912211892 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 3

["The Opposition's View" column by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "The Americans and the Afro-American Horn"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration and its Central Intelligence have made intensive efforts at the United Nations and in the Horn of Africa, which we call the Afro-American Horn. There is no doubt that the U.S. Administration is implementing a strategic plan to complete the American cordon around the African continent and the Arab Gulf.

UN Secretary General Dr. Butros Butros-Ghali has expressed great concern about the troubles in Somalia.

where a grinding civil war, without parallel in the Arab world, has been going on. This civil war has developed into a human tragedy of the first degree. More than 1 million Somali citizens are facing death from starvation. There is no doubt that it is one of the greatest famines that has faced the Arab and Islamic world in the 20th century.

The civil war in Somalia has developed to such a point that the United Nations is unable to send relief aid to the people in famine-stricken areas. Furthermore, warring Somali factions have intercepted food supplies and seized them. All this was taking place while the Arab League was in a deep sleep and while the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] was in a deeper one. The ICO awoke from its deep sleep at the call of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for a meeting of foreign ministers of the Islamic states to discuss the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina and how the ICO could help the people there who are facing the biggest extermination operation in Europe since World War II. [passage omitted]

It seems, however, that the ICO has forgotten the problem of Somalia and focused on the problem of Bosnia, leaving the question of Somalia, the famine, and the conflict there to the United Nations and its secretary general under the direction of the United States and its Administration. The United States has sent its fleet in preparation for the landing of 20,000 to 30,000 troops to occupy Somalia and dominate the Horn of Africa under the auspices of the United Nations and on the pretext of providing the necessary military force to move food supplies to the starving Somali people. This is the declared objective of the operation, which is taking place with UN support. The real objective, however, is no secret to anyone. It is the desire of the U.S. Administration to seize control of the Horn of Africa to tighten its grip on the Red Sea after having done so in the Arab Gulf. Is this the end of American designs in the Arab region?

We do not think that this is the final objective of the U.S. Administration and its Central Intelligence, because the next step would undoubtedly be to contain Iran and deal a crushing blow to it, as has happened with Iraq. How will this happen, where, and in what form? This will be revealed in time.

Finally, we do not rule out the possibility that Somali tribes have been instigated against each other, that the civil war has been initiated, and that the great famine has been caused by someone outside the Arab and Islamic states. We wonder who is the one who has caused trouble in Somalia?

Police Detain 360 'Fundamentalists' in Cairo

NC0912121392 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 9 Dec 92

[By Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, Dec 9 (AFP)—Thousands of police backed by armoured vehicles rounded up 360 suspects after sealing off a working class neighbourhood in the biggest ever operation here against Muslim fundamentalists, police said Wednesday.

The sweep, involving 16,000 policemen and 100 armoured vehicles, began late Monday and was still continuing Wednesday in a bid to flush out extremists from Imbabah, a poor neighbourhood of one million people which has become a hotbed of fundamentalism.

Police blocked all roads out of the area and were deployed at intersections where they were carrying out mass identity checks.

The security forces seized weapons along with anti-government cassettes and leaflets.

Police were using mosques' loudspeakers to give orders to local people, who were told to stay indoors during the first stage of the operation up to noon Tuesday.

Two fundamentalists who threw petrol bombs at two video shops in Imbabah on Tuesday evening were grabbed by local people and handed over to the security forces, police said. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Fundamentalists have made Imbabah their main stronghold in the Cairo area, holding public meetings, running courts, and helping the poor, especially in the wake of the earthquake in october when they criticised the government's relief efforts.

Arrests of fundamentalists had previously been concentrated in the region of Upper Egypt, the country's south.

Meanwhile, President Hosni Mubarak suffered a setback in his crackdown on Muslim extremists when the administrative chamber of the state council suspended eight death sentences and long jail terms handed down on fundamentalists in Alexandria last week.

The chamber ruled Tuesday that under the constitution the accused should have been tried in a civilian court and not a military tribunal. Mubarak, who ordered the trials to be held in military courts to speed them up, is to appeal the decision, legal sources said.

If the state council rejects his appeal the 48 fundamentalists will have retrials. They were accused of forming an illegal organization with the aim of carrying out terrorist attacks and assassinations.

The Egyptian authorities have been trying to stamp out fundamentalist unrest which has left dozens dead this year and jeopardized the vital tourist industry.

Police on Tuesday killed three Muslim fundamentalists during a search operation in the Al-Minufiyah governorate north of Cairo.

The Security forces also found a workshop used by extremists for making weapons near the southern city of Asyut on Tuesday, police said.

Twelve automatic rifles and 45 revolvers were seized but there were no arrests reported.

Last month, Egyptian authorities arrested 13 fundamentalists in southern Cairo, including two suspects in the 1981 assassination of president Anwar al-Sadat as well as Muslims involved in attacks on tourists in southern Egypt.

President Endorses 'Terrorist' Death Sentences

NC0912163092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1529 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—A responsible Defense Ministry source has said that the verdict handed down by the supreme military court in Alexandria in case No. 24 for 1992 was endorsed after it was submitted to the president the day before yesterday. The source added that the verdict handed down in case No. 23 for 1992 was also endorsed after it was submitted to the commander of the northern military area last Sunday.

The source affirmed that all the convicts in prisons have been informed that the sentences handed down against them have been endorsed. The source explained that according to law on military sentences, every convict has the right to submit a petition for a review of the sentence against him within 15 days, beginning the day the convict is informed of the endorsement of the sentence.

The supreme military court last Thursday handed down its verdicts in the two cases involving the terrorist organization and the al-Jihad Organization. The court sentenced eight defendants, including seven fugitives, to death; 25 to hard labor; six to imprisonment; and acquitted nine others.

'Extremist' Groups Attack Shops 9 Dec

NC1012115792 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1029 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—In a quick reaction to the police security campaign of combing the Imbabah area and cleansing it of extremist elements, three extremist groups last night simultaneously attacked three video clubs in Bulaq al-Dakrur using Molotov cocktails. Two of the shops were burned down and one employee was hurt. Residents extinguished the fire in the third shop after the owner's brother was hurt. [passage omitted]

A security source said the extremist groups carried out the three attacks at 1700 precisely to cause a major explosion to divert police efforts and force them to decrease pressure on the Imbabah region. [passage omitted]

The source noted that the extremists took the chance when the security bodies were occupied arresting extremists in the Imbabah region. They tried to create a diversion. The source said the police are preparing some central security units to patrol the Bulaq al-Dakrur region to prevent a repeat of such events.

Defense Ministry Disclaims Lecture

NC0912205292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—The Defense Ministry has stated that some newspapers yesterday published a lecture delivered at the Political Research and Studies Center of Cairo University, attributing it to the defense minister. The Ministry stresses that this lecture expressed the personal view of the researcher who delivered it and not the official view of the Defense Ministry.

One of the researchers delivered a lecture the day before yesterday at the seminar organized by the Political Research and Studies Center at Cairo University's College of Economics, saying it was issued by the Defense Minister.

This center, which cooperates with other studies centers, invites to its conferences and seminars scholars and researchers to express their personal opinions on topical issues. Therefore, such studies are not a platform to submit official viewpoints.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech to Health Committee

NC0812103192

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1937 GMT on 7 December carries a 93-minute recording of an address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting of the People's Committee for Health and Social Security on 7 December. The place of the meeting is not given.

Al-Qadhdhafi is shown sitting behind a podium wearing a Western-style suit jacket and no tie. He appears to be in good health and speaks clearly. Al-Qadhdhafi begins by urging the committee to make sure that Libya has at least 10 top-of-the-line hospitals so that Libyans will not have to travel abroad to seek medical care. He cites the numbers of physicians and nurses in the country and elaborates on the technicalities and administration of the health services.

Al-Qadhdhafi then argues that as the West has "exploited" the natural resources of the Third World, the latter should make use of Western technology. There is nothing wrong, he gives an example, in sending the blood samples of Libyans to be analyzed in Western laboratories. Diagnosis and treatment can then take place in Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi then says that fear stifles creativity and should be abolished in Libya. One type of fear was generated by the revolution itself, but "the revolution has not come to terrorize people, but to liberate and

serve the people. The revolution, however, terrorizes the masses and fists of the people and the masses." Ordinary citizens used to be afraid to act in order not to make *mistakes and be hounded enemies of the people.* Now this fear no longer exists, al-Qadhdhafi concludes.

Al-Qadhdhafi then identifies another type of fear as "*popular* domination" and defines it as "excessive control by the people's congresses over the people's committees." This fear is healthy, he says, because it is fear from the people, but it can still "shackle the people [word indistinct] create and produce." Al-Qadhdhafi then declares both types of fear to be dead: "I believe that fear is dead. We should now conclude that fear is dead. There is no more fear. We have gone through a phase of popular domination, revolutionary courts, people's courts, revolutionary committees, and popular control. Now, we know what to do. When we go to the ('municipal) level now, everything is ('above-board), clear, and well-defined." This lack of fear, al-Qadhdhafi adds, is evident in the current work of the health committee.

Al-Qadhdhafi expresses confidence in the People's Committee for Health and Social Security and in its ability to work and make decisions, even under the circumstances of the air embargo. He says: "The air embargo is a crime against humanity, against health in Libya, against patients, and in favor of disease. It is a crime against the disabled and the handicapped. Imposing an air embargo against a whole people is a brutal, barbaric act. This is only a form of colonialism, hegemony, and domination. The Security Council is now nothing but a tool in the hand of the colonialist states. Had it really been an international Security Council, it would have never imposed such an embargo against an entire people."

He adds: "When, for example, we need to send a blood sample immediately to the United States, Europe, or Britain, we cannot do it under the air embargo. Shall we send it in a car, in a ship? We are giving this example only to expose this crime and the horrible guilt of its perpetrators against the Libyan people, or against the Yugoslav people, or against the Iraqi people. All these peoples are being imprisoned. When they saw that these peoples are developing, they decided to imprison them. It is clear that all these peoples were progressing and acquiring technology. Therefore, they antagonized them and tried to imprison them." He adds: "From now on, you should shoulder the responsibility of all these things, and I am sure that the medical and social conditions of the Libyan people will be better than those of any other people in the world, at least the so-called Third World."

Al-Qadhdhafi urges quality medical services and facilities for both inpatients and outpatients. He notes that Libya now has 24,000 hospital beds in addition to the beds used for outpatients. He says children's hospitals should accommodate both children and their mothers. When mothers work as nurses for their own babies, he contends, the child mortality rate drops.

Turning to social security, al-Qadhdhafi says that with the distribution of oil revenues to members of the society, the need for social security will no longer exist. But he adds that "when the disabled, underaged, and similar categories directly receive their portion of oil revenues, the Social Security Fund may serve as their guardian" in order to prevent any exploitation. He adds: "The society's wealth will be equally divided among members of the society, sane and insane, naive and intelligent."

Al-Qadhdhafi urges social security officials to take special care of orphans and the sick, and to provide the necessary assistance for girls or women who, for some reason or another, decide to leave their families and live on their own. He says that some married, unmarried, and divorced women are leaving their families, whether we approve of it or not, and it is the state's responsibility to care for them and provide them with houses.

Al-Qadhdhafi then listens to remarks and points raised by the audience concerning pensions, social funds, hospital equipment, nurses, and other related issues. He makes little comment. Responding to a remark about the use of revenues from touristic facilities by the Social Security Fund, al-Qadhdhafi says that Libya may open its doors for international tourism and earn as much as it earns from oil. One of the speakers says that the United States prevented a Libyan delegation from attending an international gathering on social security. He said Libyan media should have focused on this and similar other practices to show that the embargo against Libya is not only a political one, but also involves humanitarian activity. Al-Qadhdhafi comments: "Thank you for drawing our attention to this."

Bahrain

Destruction of Mosque in India Condemned

LD0912200892 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, Dec 9, SPA—Bahrain has condemned the demolition of the Babri mosque at the hands of Hindu fanatics.

A spokesman of the Bahraini Foreign Ministry reiterated his country's condemnation of this shameful act against the 16th century historical mosque in Ayodhya city.

He urged the Indian Government to take an immediate action to stop such practices which hurt the feelings of Muslims worldwide.

Three Sentenced for Anti-Regime Activities

NC0912222192 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] An agent of the Khomeyni regime has been sentenced to three years imprisonment in Bahrain. He was convicted of being a member of a group named the Islamic Front, which is involved in activities opposed to the Bahraini regime. Two others have been arrested on similar charges and have been sentenced to one-year prison terms.

Kuwait

Reaction to Demolition of Indian Mosque Reported

Minister Condemns Destruction

LD0912180092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 9 December (KUNA)—Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, second deputy prime minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, today expressed Kuwait's disapproval and strong condemnation of the criminal attack on the holy place of the Muslims in India, namely the destruction of the historic Babri mosque.

He added that these irresponsible actions represented contempt for the feelings of all Muslims in the world. He also called on the Indian government to assume its responsibilities and take the necessary measures to protect the Muslims in India, respect their religious rights, and safeguard their holy places.

Assembly Criticizes Attack

LD1012052892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Dec (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti National Assembly condemned today the blatant aggressions and the fierce attacks against Islam and its sanctity in India. It announced in a statement its opposition to scaring Muslims, tampering with their mosques, and all that is happening to them in India.

The Assembly said that the Babri Mosque—which has been destroyed by force—is a mosque that was founded on piety for centuries and was linked to the history of Muslims in this region. It stressed that aggression against it "is aggression against the sanctity of God's houses, an insult to Muslims all over the world, and a defiance against the nation of Mohammed, God's prayers and peace be upon him."

The council expressed hope that the Indian Government will take the necessary measures to protect Muslims there and to restore the mosque that was attacked. It also urged all countries, peoples, and human rights organizations to express support to Muslims in India, to protect their lives and sanctity, and to stand firmly in the face of this blatant image of religious racism that may lead to sedition and factional w[illegible]s whose consequences are only known by God.

Security Forces Seize Ammunition, Explosives

LD0912165092 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1734 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 8 Dec (KUNA)—The Interior Ministry today announced that it had managed to seize a formidable quantity of ammunition and explosives in a cave in al-Salibiyah. The Directorate of Public Relations at the Interior Ministry said that security men stormed the place after a period of surveillance and discovered large quantities of ammunition, explosives, rockets, hand-grenades, anti-tank and anti-personnel missiles as well as a huge quantity of Kalashnikov machine guns. The source said that the Directorate of Explosives participated in recovering the ammunition and explosives from the aforementioned place. It stressed that the security services continued their investigation to reveal more information on and details of the operation. The Directorate did not give any further details on the operation. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Large Number' Killed, Wounded in Ta'izz Protest

JN0912160292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Reports from Yemen have said that a large number of people were either killed or wounded in clashes between the security forces and demonstrators in Ta'izz, 260 km south of Sanaa. The reports added that the acts of violence—which took place in the wake of a demonstration staged by taxi drivers who called for an increase in taxi fares—are still going on. The reports also noted that the perpetrators of the violence had set on fire the trade center in the city of Ta'izz, as well as private and government vehicles.

Council Discusses Riots

JN0912205792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting this afternoon under the chairmanship of Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, in the presence of Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, First Deputy Prime Minister Hasan Muhammad Makki, the defense and security minister, and the interior minister.

The Council discussed a number of developments in the national arena related to the citizens' affairs and concerns, and to living conditions in the country. It also discussed the regrettable violence and riots that occurred in the city of Ta'izz today, as well as the casualties and the losses and damage caused to some establishments and to public and private property.

The Presidential Council regretted these irresponsible and nonpatriotic actions, which harm the democratic policy, the political pluralism experience, party life in our country, and the higher interests of the homeland and the people. They do not (herve) anyone, except those lying in wait for our Yemeni homeland, its unity, and its democratic experience.

The Presidential Council stressed that everyone has the right to express his opinions in a peaceful, democratic, and civilized manner—a right guaranteed by the Constitution and the law for all citizens—away from violence, riots, chaos, and destruction, which will complicate problems further, will not serve the citizens and the homeland, and will not provide solutions. The meeting took a number of measures to preserve security and stability in society.

The city of Ta'izz this morning witnessed sabotage and rioting aimed at some stores and government offices in the center of the city. SABA' has learned that the local authorities and security organs have managed to control the situation and have asked the public prosecution to investigate the rioters and take legal measures to prosecute them.

Ta'izz Casualties, Damage Updated

JN1012102692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0901 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, 10 Dec (INA)—One policeman was killed and 29 policemen and citizens were injured in the riots in Ta'izz, Yemen, on 9 December.

A Yemeni security source told SABA' at dawn today that rioters attacked the buildings of 12 public institutions and offices in the city and looted four public and other institutions. Many stores in the al-Khish, Baydaher, Bab Musa, and the al-Thu'ah hospital areas of the city were looted.

The source indicated that the riots and acts of violence also resulted in the destruction of 26 private vehicles in the city's traffic department, as well as a large number of private vehicles elsewhere in the city.

The security source explained that the riots in Ta'izz, 256 km south of Sanaa, began at 1100 when a group of taxi and bus drivers, joined by some students and workers, staged demonstrations through city streets. The demonstrations turned violent, causing damage to public and private property.

The source indicated that city police and security forces confronted the perpetrators of these irresponsible acts and dispersed them through usual means used to disperse rioters and demonstrators. They managed to control the situation fully by 2100 last night. He said that investigations continue to uncover those responsible for the riots.

'Suspect Conspiracy' Seen

JN1012093592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In an editorial under the headline "The Shining Future," the newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER says: Actual and objective indications of Yemen's shining future are becoming clearer everyday. This is thanks to the decisive achievements of development in the fields of research, exploration, and persistent work to control national energies and exploit natural resources in the good Yemeni land, which has always been the source of life and sustenance, even if man's toil in it is confined to planting it. [passage omitted]

The paper says: We are aware of the bitter national sentiments rejecting and denouncing the dirty, aggressive actions that took place in Ta'izz yesterday, and of their hateful results which reflect a spirit of treacherous rancor and lowly levels of (?terrorism) and conspiracy against national unity, public security, and social cooperation and cohesion in Yemen. This unveils the reality of the suspect conspiracy and [words indistinct] by the enemies of the Republic of Yemen and unity, freedom, and democracy. By any standard, this conspiracy is hostile to the supreme national interests. We profoundly believe that Yemen's interest is above all interests, considerations, and whims. Those who conspire against the Yemeni homeland and its unity, cultural orientations, principled policy, and wise, national leadership do not show the least consideration for national interests. Those working and cooperating with them—the lowly and cheap sectarian, racist, and politically immature lackeys—are eagerly seeking narrow factional and short-term interests in the service of hostile, conspiratorial objectives. This constitutes a strange and blatant violation of all our free, proud, and militant Yemeni people's values, norms, and principles. Our people reject treason, humiliation, subservience, and dependence.

Throughout their history, inside their homeland and abroad, the Yemenis have lived by their creative efforts

and honorable toil. They will always adhere to this cultural behavior, living and bearing their cultural message. In this principled commitment, they have never been involved in acts of looting, robbery, and exaction, similar to what has happened in the proud, valiant city of Ta'izz—acts which speak of nothing but the law of the jungle.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: When national and human miracles are achieved, history does not repeat itself. However, as it proceeds toward the better, the homeland faces the same rancorous advocates of frustration and reactionary diseases who do not want the homeland to proceed as it should and who want it to remain in a ditch of backwardness and darkness and outside the life of the age and march of progress. However, these forces' endeavor will end in dismal failure irrespective of their aggressive designs and tactics and the manifestations of their exposed and blatant rancor. The wise, persistent, and patient national effort toward entrenching the sound exercise of a free, responsible, constructive, and productive democracy will defeat the democracy of anarchy, sabotage, absence of values, and the dreams of a repressive, arrogant, and humiliating dictatorship.

Protesters Fired on To Prevent March on Parliament

NC1012111192 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 10 (AFP)—Police fired on demonstrators protesting falling living standards here Thursday as unrest erupted in two other towns, witnesses said.

A witness told AFP he saw four people lying on the ground after being hit by gunfire, but did not give their conditions.

Police opened fire to break up a march by thousands of demonstrators as they headed towards the parliament building here.

Protest Spreads to Other Cities

JN1012112592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Well-informed sources in Sanaa have said that security forces today fired at the masses in the Yemeni capital while thousands were demonstrating to protest the high cost of living. These sources said the disturbances spread to other cities in Yemen and the demonstrations turned into political protests and slogans hostile to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Aden TV Interviews Salih on National Affairs

JN0912214092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2005 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The second channel of the television in the economic and trade capital, Aden, has conducted an interview with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on a number of issues and national concerns.

Answering a question on his assessment of all the steps taken since the state of unity was declared, the brother president stressed that any historic event and great action must face some difficulties and will become a great event like the September and October revolutions. He added that the greatness of these revolutions is that they faced difficulties. Had it not been for this, it would not have become great and historic revolutions, and 22 May, the day on which the republic was announced, become a historic and great day. He said: These difficulties we are facing are natural. We are certain that many national, political, and social forces are aware of this historic event. Certainly, they will confront all this through honest words, logic, and all other means.

The brother president added: With deep regret I say that in these circumstances, some political forces are trying to create clamor and fears in the national arena. Such fears [words indistinct] in light of previous incidents—13 January in the South and the August incidents in the North. We, in the leadership, stress that there should be no fear or concern. No problems will occur because we believe that no tensions or differences will prevail within the framework of dialogue and freedom of expression. He says: Despite some irrelevant and unobjective criticism, the press—not the political parties—has tackled some problems. I say that dialogue in the press and through the media is better than dialogue through guns. We hope that all will comprehend this approach, place the homeland's interests above everything, and that no political force will turn into a destructive tool to serve the enemies of the revolution, democratic (?unity), and freedom in Yemen.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Somalia Operation

JN1012122392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Iraq has criticized UN Security Council Resolution 794 providing for interference in Somalia's domestic affairs and paving the way for the United States to carry out its military campaign and invade the Somali territory.

In a statement today, the Foreign Ministry affirmed that this UN Security Council Resolution is reminiscent of UN Security Council Resolution 678 of 1990 on which Washington based its aggression against Iraq under the slogan of evicting military forces from Kuwait.

The statement indicates that the United States once again uses the UN Security Council as a cover for its own political and military purposes and schemes. Thus, it has exploited the Somali people's tragedy and urgent need for relief and assistance to impose on the world a serious approach in international relations aimed at legitimizing and harmonizing the launching of military campaigns in accordance with the prerequisites of its plans to dominate the destinies of the states and peoples of the world, especially the developing nations.

The statement explains: Statistical surveys conducted by international organizations indicate that about 1 billion of the population of the developing nations live on and under the poverty line. However, the United States sent its military campaign at short notice to Somalia and not to other places, such as Bosnia- Herzegovina, Mozambique, Angola, or Bangladesh. This is because there is an easy and available opportunity in this country, but not in other states, whose turn may come in the future. Besides, Somalia's geographic location controls the southern entrance of the Red Sea toward the Arabian Gulf and overlooks the vital navigational lines in the Indian Ocean. Moreover, Somali territory contains a large reservoir of raw uranium and perhaps oil.

The statement says: From the beginning of the crisis in Somalia, Iraq supported, and still supports, extending aid to the Somali people. Despite the unjust blockade imposed on it, Iraq made a practical proposal to the United Nations to export $4 billion worth of Iraqi oil and allocate 5 percent of the revenues, approximately $200 million, to help the Somali people and finance the relief aid operations in other parts of the world. Also in the 1970's and 1980's, Iraq extended generous aid to Somalia, including 5,000 Ferguson agricultural tractors in 1979 to encourage agricultural development in Somalia. There is, however, a substantial difference between giving aid and honest help and military interventions in Somalia or anywhere else.

The Foreign Ministry statement adds: UN Security Council Resolution 794 of 1992, on which Washington depends to implement its military campaign on Somali soil under the pretext of extending aid to its people, reminds us of Security Council Resolution 678 of 1990 on which Washington depended to stage aggression against Iraq on the pretext of evicting military forces from Kuwait. Some of the U.S. troops whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iraqis are even taking part in the campaign against Somalia.

The statement asserts that the dangerous course which the United States is seeking to impose on the world marks a return to the old colonialist policy, which is now given a new cover under the pretext of concern for international legitimacy and alleged humanitarian aid.

Paper Denounces 'U.S. Invasion' of Somalia

JN1012125292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0733 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced the U.S. military invasion of Somalia, which has been carried out due to the U.S. hegemony over the UN Security Council.

In an article today, the paper, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that "U.S. bread arrives only in the company of the U.S. soldier."

The paper adds that the Bush administration wants to enter Somalia through the gate of death and starvation so as to raise the U.S. flag over the remains of a homeland and people. It wants to inherit Somalia, which was distributed among several European states before it was ravished by hunger and bullets, thus filling victim to the U.S. condition for saving it from starving to death.

The paper asks: How can an entire people be denied food at a time when rival combatants do not suffer any shortage of arms and ammunition? Nobody says that the fighting is not being supplied with money and weapons from abroad. However, nobody has questioned the clear significance of suppliers' eagerness to provide ammunition and withhold food.

The paper says that bread will be brought in along with occupation. This is the scenario they have drawn, and this is what is taking place. This is the first time in history that bread needs an international—U.S., of course—protection by approximately 30,000 U.S. and auxiliary Western and Third World troops.

The paper adds that the Western media will preoccupy itself with describing the super heroism of the saviors who entered Somalia through the gate of death and starvation. Tomorrow, the prevailing image will be one of the American distributing bread among the hungry Third World people, represented by the Somali citizen, or let us say what has remained of that citizen and his homeland.

The paper explains that in light of this colonialist move, there is a need to specify the indispensable characteristics of a patriotic leadership capable of confronting colonialism. Then, Somalia has fallen at one of the old gates, because the U.S. bread arrives only in the company of the U.S. soldier.

Meanwhile, Iraq is standing loftily at the head of the Arabian Gulf, adding to its bread a third and fourth rivers despite the blockade and the destruction that preceded it. Thus, Somalia will be a victory for Bush, but Iraq will remain the comprehensive defeat for the same Bush.

Defense Minister Attends Tactical Exercise Meeting

JN0912214092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, today attended an analytical conference on a tactical exercise which was previously carried out by one of the formations of the heroic al-Faruq Forces within the al-Rashid Forces' sector of operations.

The interactive discussion was interspersed by instructions from the defense minister, inspired by the rich field lessons learned from the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle [the war with Iran] and the immortal, great confrontation of the Mother of Battles. The defense minister stressed the role of impartial judgment of exercises and its importance to such field activities, as well as the national and military duty entailed by it thus before it is seen as a purely technical business.

The defense minister said: We should all be precise when we judge ourselves and carry out our military duty, and bold enough to point to negative aspects of training to address those negative aspects and overcome them in the future.

At the end of the discussion, the commander and fighters of the al-Faruq Forces pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain faithful soldiers to high principles and make sacrifice in defense of Iraq's soil and its steadfast people.

In a related development, fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al- Majid, RCC member and defense minister, met with the fighter staff major general commander of the al-Rashid Forces, and listened to his detailed explanation of the nature of training in units and formations, as well as the obstacles facing their activities.

The defense minister instructed relevant departments and directorates and the command of the corps to jointly study these obstacles to find joint and practical solutions that would enhance the combat and performance capability of its units.

Saddam 'Dialogue' in Visit to Ninawa Reported

JN0812135692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Dec 92 p 1

[Report on remarks made by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during an inspection tour of peasants in a village in the Ninawa Governorate on 4 December]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has inspected the peasant sons of his dauntless people in the village of Tall Tibah [name as published] in the Ninawa Governorate. The dignitaries and citizens of the village, both young and old, men and women, received the leader president with overwhelming joy and a warm welcome, cheering his visit, chanting for his life, and blessing his efforts and jihad for the sake of the Arabs' strength and Iraq's glory.

The leader president was welcomed as a dear, esteemed, and loved guest by Abu-Sulaymah from the al-Hadidiyin tribe. In a relaxed, pleasant dialogue between the leader and his citizens, the leader president tackled many issues of interest to the homeland and citizens. His excellency said: The Iraqis' patience is enormous; God promises the patient all that pleases them and the believers; the patience of the Iraqis is not the patience of the weak, but the patience of able believers. The enemies know that. When they assembled all that they could muster, in the way of men and equipment, the Iraqis fought and stood fast, and did their duty as believers, having relied on God.

The following is the text of the leader president's remarks, may God protect him, during his visit to the village of Tall Tibah in the Ninawa Governorate on 4 December 1992:

Commenting on what the peasants said about the distribution of chemical fertilizers in quotas in accordance with the annual average rainfall charts, the president said: This measure is temporary and depends on a period of time which will pass. The peasant will then take the fertilizers and other materials he needs.

The leader president said: I cannot claim that I suffer as you do from the minute details in your life. However, to be honest, I feel your suffering when I see or walk on muddy roads. I want to talk about electricity. I want you to know that I am following up the manufacture of electrical cable by the industry ministries in order to secure the citizens' needs of electricity.

Regarding the foreigners' methods of driving a wedge among people's ranks, the leader president said: The foreigner always seeks to sow disunity among the sons of the one country, and to make the people of this country fight each other. This is for the simple reason that when they are not fighting each other, they fight the foreigner and pool their efforts against his influence.

The leader president added: Over the past 23 years, Iraq achieved what other countries could not achieve in one or two centuries. If we take any advanced country as an example and measure the time span of its development from the time it started this development when its situation was similar to that of Iraq at the beginning of the revolution until it reached the point Iraq has reached during the past 23 years, we will find that it has achieved what Iraq did in not less than 200 years. Praise be to God who enabled us to overcome the time barrier through work and jihad.

Regarding the fact that the Iraqis are angry because the leader is not displeased with the Arabs, especially since some of them have participated in the aggression against Iraq, the leader president said: During the war against the renegade Muslims [in the early beginnings of Islam], Abu-Bakr was the caliph, and it happened that an Arab came to him and asked for a weapon to support Muslims against the renegades. Abu-Bakr gave him the weapon. However, the Arab sided with the renegades.

Having won victory with God's help, they took the Arab prisoner. The caliph said he would pardon many people with the exception of that man, because he had broken a promise. The caliph said he would have him burned to death. To the best of my knowledge that was the first time burning was meted out as punishment. Why? This is because he committed treason twice—once when he reneged, and once because he committed treason by reneging. He had sought to dupe the caliph by posing as a pro-Muslim who had acquired weapons from the caliph and then used them against Muslims.

You are in the same situation now. You resent it if an Iraqi veers from the right path, but you will not be angry with him if he reconsiders and then mends his ways.

God has taught us lessons so that we learn to avoid making mistakes; alongside night there is day; alongside light there is dark, and so with the sun and the moon, heaven and hell, and mercy and harsh punishment.

Discussing the food situation and services in the northern part of the homeland, his excellency the leader president said:

The state is exerting itself, but what is the amount of services it can possibly deliver? You know the circumstances we are experiencing. You are our people. God willing, even wrongdoers will repent and return. Those who are in the right and have been proved right feel proud. Those who persist in their treason—and they are few—will be isolated.

Over the last 25 years, you must have noticed that weather conditions often deteriorated, with a lot of dust, thunder, and lightning. However, eventually dust disappears and the sun and the moon reappear. Just as happened in the past, the dust that has built up will settle. However, a human being, armed with faith, can see light in darkness, as if it were the sun in midday.

On enemy flights over Mosul, his excellency the leader president said:

Fatigue will catch up with them. By continually mounting flights over Mosul, they have lost men as they did during the bombing campaign. I know that the people of Mosul are seething with hatred, especially given that the overflights are being timed to coincide with prayer times.

The Iraqis' patience is enormous. God promises the patient all that pleases them and the believers; the patience of the Iraqis is not the patience of the weak, but the patience of able believers. The enemies know that. When they assembled all that they could muster, in the way of men and equipment, the Iraqis fought and stood fast, and did their duty as believers, having relied on God. They did their duty, the duty of faith.

Discussing the services the state has been providing during the war with Iran and now and visits by government officials to the village, his excellency the leader president said:

There is no raising objections to God's judgement, but I am saddened not so much for those who are still alive, since they have witnessed pleasant things, but for those who have passed away without being afforded a chance to enjoy these good things.

About the citizens having trouble receiving water in the past, his excellency the leader president said:

As you may know, some people died after having drunk from wells that had been invaded and infested by locusts.

Saddam Lauds Efforts To Repair Irrigation Systems

JN0812165392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has paid tribute to the generous efforts being exerted by the industrious personnel of the Military Industrialization Organization to complete the campaign of repairing irrigation and drainage stations throughout Iraq. Commenting on the cable he received from Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of the industry and oil sectors, his excellency said: God bless the hard-working men of the military industrialization, as well as every sincere and trustful worker.

[Husayn Kamil Hasan's] cable says: Today, we bring to your excellency the good tidings that over 50 percent of work has been completed. We will soon bring to your excellency good tidings that all the repair at all the stations has been completed, God willing. We are always prepared for sacrifice for your sake to build our great Iraq, thus wandering your excellency's slogan: "Deem the impossible. God is Great."

Normalizing Ties With Washington Viewed

JN1012005892 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 3-9 Dec 92 p 8

[From the "Diplomatic Pouch" column]

[Text] American journalist Pierre Salinger, author of "The Secret Files of the Gulf War," has played an important role recently in establishing links between the new U.S. Administration and Iraq through conveying messages from the Iraqi leadership to officials in the Clinton administration. A prominent Arab personality,

who visited Baghdad recently accompanied by the Democrat journalist, disclosed to AL-SHURUQ that Salinger met with a number of Iraqi decisionmakers in Baghdad. The Arab personality added that he also arranged meetings between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and officials in the Clinton administration during 'Aziz visit to New York. The Arab personality believes that Salinger's efforts will result in the normalization of relations between Washington and Baghdad in the coming months.

Iraqi Opposition Takes up Residence in Jordan

PM0712153092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "In a Tendency Indicating Amman's Opening up to Opposition, Wave of Iraqi Emigration to Jordan for Work and Permanent Residence"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—The Jordanian capital has over recent months witnessed the emigration of a large number of Iraqi university graduates and professors seeking to reside in Jordan permanently. Information indicates that instructions have been issued by high-level Jordanian circles to hospitals, universities, and departments telling them of the need to employ these, even if it is at the expense of Jordanian capabilities.

What gives this step certain political dimensions is the prevailing belief in some circles that Jordan has—for some time—started to open up to Iraqi opposition circles, while it has rigidly closed the border with Iraq and imposed a blockade which even includes some of the foods not on the UN embargo lists.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information indicates that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told leaders of some of the pro-Iraqi Jordanian parties who met with him a few weeks ago that he would not open the border with Jordan in the manner adopted in the past, in view of what Amman has done. Nor would he restore trade exchange with Jordan to its previous status, even if Jordanian officials seek that and abandon their recent measures.

What is confirmed in this connection is that the Turkish and Iranian borders have been substituted for the Jordanian border with regard to operations to smuggle certain materials to Iraqi markets. What is strange in this regard is that some eyewitnesses who visited al-Basrah recently said they saw a lot of materials smuggled from Kuwait. Asked whether those materials were some of those stolen during the invasion of Kuwaiti territory, they emphasized that the dates on the goods they saw proved they were new and produced after the liberation and the Iraqi forces' evacuation.

Meanwhile, Jordanian sources have said that Sa'd al-Bazzaz, chief editor of the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, who formerly worked as director of the Iraqi cultural center in London, has probably decided to reside in Jordan permanently and is now working for a Jordanian daily.

The sources said that this Iraqi official has not left Amman since his arrival there some six months ago, except on three visits to conduct press interviews for the Jordanian newspaper. It has been reported that Al-Bazzaz, who is one of the most important officials at the Iraqi Information Ministry, may have left Iraq for political reasons, and that he is staying in Jordan as a political refugee.

There had been information that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, who is the head of the Iraqi Journalists' Association, confiscated the houses of all Iraqi journalists on the pretext of their nonparticipation in one of the protest campaigns against the United States. And that—after interventions and mediations—he agreed to return these houses to their owners, provided they walked a 40-km distance.

And it has become certain that the Iraqi poet 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Bayyati, who resided for many years in Madrid, Spain, as a counselor for the Iraqi Embassy there, is residing permanently in Amman and has been given the post of counselor at the Jordanian Culture Ministry.

Oil Minister Leaves for OAPEC Meeting in Cairo

JN0812171092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has left Baghdad for Cairo to attend the 49th meeting of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, which will convene tomorrow, Wednesday. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Receives Jordanian Party Leader 8 Dec

JN0812170692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, head of the new Jordanian al-'Ahd [the Pledge] Party.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the close fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and the current Arab situation.

Al-Majali expressed solidarity with the steadfast, patient Iraqi people in confronting the aggression and unjust blockade.

The meeting was attended by Jordanian Ambassador to Iraq Nimah al-Majali.

Rabinovich Comments on Arab Boycott of Peace Talks

TA0912181192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Text] It was Hanan 'Ashrawi who informed the State Department's Edward Djerejian by telephone of the decision by all the Arab delegations to boycott the peace talks on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the intifadah. Djerejian immediately called Professor Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the talks with Syria. Rabinovich told him that he refuses to receive such announcements from 'Ashrawi, who is not a member of the delegation. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, called Djerejian this morning and reiterated the announcement about canceling the session. The Americans responded with anger that they are not prepared to serve as a post box for the transfer of such messages between Syria and Israel. Prof. Rabinovich, of course, reacted with gravity.

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] I take it gravely for two reasons. First, this is a short round, only eight days. In the Israeli-Syrian talks, at least, we started this round—and even concluded the previous one—with a serious decision by both sides to try to achieve something. From that viewpoint, a wasted workday is superfluous and regrettable. The second point is the dynamics begun here. We saw the Syrians in the deliberations yesterday, they did not tell us that they planned to boycott the discussions today. I suppose they reached the decision due to the dynamics that developed between the Arab delegations. We ask ourselves, as Israeli negotiators, if the phenomenon that the frustrated, more extremist side is able to dictate moves to the more united sides—those who are at least on the way to making progress—is an isolated move, or points to wider trends. That is the second reason that we view that development with gravity.

[Golan] What is your answer to that question? Can it harm the continuation of the talks?

[Rabinovich] I do not think that on its own it can have an impact. I will not just leave it up to what I have to say, but will put the question to the Syrians when we meet. To my regret, we do not have a dialogue—and that is their choice and not ours. It is their choice and not ours that we do not have a situation where the head of the Syrian delegation picks up the phone to me. Therefore, the first opportunity I will have to bring up the issue will be tomorrow when we meet; and I plan to do so, and ask a question in a similar vein to what I have just told you. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin Visits United Kingdom

WA1012123492

For reportage on the visit of Prime Minister Rabin to the United Kingdom, including his talks with UK Prime Minister Major, see the 9 December issue of the West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Curfew, Closed Zone Imposed in Bayt Ummar

TA0912154692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Israeli Defense Force [IDF] has imposed a curfew on Bayt Ummar, near Hebron, and declared the village a closed military zone after a large demonstration was organized by supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Correspondent Moti Amir reports that the demonstrators erected stone barricades and burned tires at the entrances to the village and invited reporters and television teams. A total of 13 village residents were detained for interrogation.

Meanwhile, an IDF force was stoned at the village of Husan, near Bethlehem. The soldiers dispersed the stone throwers.

Army Sources See Decrease in Intifadah Violence

TA0712180892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 92 p A3

[Report by Yossi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] "In 1992 there was a significant decrease in violent expressions of the intifadah in the West Bank, and the life of the Palestinian population has, to a large extent, gone back to normal." Senior Army elements said this yesterday in a discussion on the trends of the intifadah since its outset.

According to them, in 1992 there was a 25-percent drop in the number of "hot" incidents, such as the throwing of hand grenades and firebombs and the placing of explosive charges, compared with 1991. At the same time, there was an increase in the number of incidents in which Palestinians shot at Israelis—up from 262 in 1991 to 334 in 1992. Since 1990 the number of stone-throwing incidents has declined.

Some 50 percent of the attacks were carried out by Fatah supporters. The speakers at the discussion also noted that last year the attacks became more sophisticated and the use of firearms increased.

Since the start of the intifadah until the end of November 1992, 831 Palestinians have been killed by the security forces in the West Bank and Gaza, while 15,935 have been injured. During the same period, 18 soldiers and 29 civilians were killed and 4,152 soldiers and 1,625 Israeli civilians injured in the terrorism. During that period, 109 Palestinians were killed by other Palestinians on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. The participants in the discussion further reported that since 1990, more Palestinians have been killed by fellow Palestinians than by the Army.

The sources also reported that there has been a drop in the number of wanted Palestinian fugitives. The number

of wanted men was stable until the beginning of 1992, when the trend shifted. The number of fugitives in the West Bank dropped from 400 to 150. The largest number of wanted fugitives is found in the Jenin area.

The sources expressed the assessment that the deterrent power of the security forces rose as a result of greater intelligence and operational abilities compared with the early stages of the intifadah and, at the same time, the number of young men joining the circle of fugitives has dropped.

The spokesmen noted that recently the fugitives have been investing much effort in dodging the security forces. At the same time, they admitted that the fugitives have gained a lot of experience and pose an obstacle to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

According to the military sources, Israeli authorities in the territories have succeeded in carrying out most of the military and administrative missions they set for themselves in the framework of fighting the intifadah. The Palestinians have scored only partial achievements. Nevertheless, they have succeeded in making international public opinion aware of their situation and in getting the PLO involved in the peace process unofficially.

The Israeli establishment today has less need to employ steps that disrupt the normal daily life of the Palestinians. For example, there has been a significant drop in placing roadblocks and imposing curfews. The number of administrative detainees has also dropped from 449 in November 1991 to 223 in November 1992. [passage omitted]

Defense Source Links Fate of Navigator, MIA's

TA0712073692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Israel sees a connection between the release of navigator Ron Arad and the release by Hizbullah of the remains of Yusuf Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh. This was revealed by a senior defense establishment figure, who added that because there is no information about the fate of the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle MIA's, they are considered alive. More details from our military affairs correspondent Nezan'el Senesh:

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] navigator has been kept captive since the Lebanon war, and there are three MIA's and two fallen servicemen whose bodies have not been retrieved. Until the last MIA returns, a defense establishment element said, the problem will remain open as far as the Western world and public opinion are concerned. The element added that some countries can assist in solving the problem. These are Syria and Iran. The security element stressed: These countries must understand that unless they help with this issue, they will remain on the list of terror-supporting countries and will find it difficult to be part of the international community. As for Israel, the defense element stressed that it will continue to ensure that Syria and Iran are not taken off that list as long as the problem remains unresolved. [passage omitted]

The defense element further said that no Western hostages would have been freed had it not been for Israel's support. Without our action, he said, the mission of the UN secretary general's envoy Giandomenico Picco would have failed at the outset.

He added that some of the detainees held by Israel are allowed to receive mail and visits by Red Cross representatives, while others have no such privileges. The guiding principle is reciprocity, which is recognized by international law—namely, that when Israel's MIA's and POW's are granted their rights under international law by those holding them, Israel will honor the rights of all the detainees it is holding.

The defense element further said that the threats against and the persecution of those who had held the Western hostages are not helpful and may even be detrimental to the attempts to solve the problem.

The defense element said Israel sees a connection between the release of Ron Arad and the release of the remains of Yusuf Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 December, in a report by the military correspondent on pages 1 and 4, also quotes "a senior defense establishment element" as saying "just right" that "the threats and the persecution waged by Western countries, particularly the United States, against those who had held the Western hostages are obstructing the solution of the problem of the Israeli POW's and MIA's held in Lebanon."]

[Human Rights Report Notes Improvement Under Rabin

TA0812115992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Beyt-Selem, the Israeli organization that monitors human rights in the territories, has concluded that there has been a slight improvement since the Rabin government took over. Representatives of Beyt-Selem held a news conference in Jerusalem today at which they released their annual report. Also holding a news conference today was the Palestinian human rights information center, who concluded there has been no change under the Rabin government that came to power. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] According to Beyt-Selem, there have been limited improvements in the human rights conditions of Palestinians in the territories since the Rabin government came to power; however, what Beyt-Selem referred to as grave and sweeping violations of human rights continue. The organization notes in particular the rise in the number of fatalities during this period. Here is Yuval Ginbar from Beyt-Selem:

[Gruber] There has been no decline unfortunately in the number of Palestinians killed by security forces. The number is 41 since the beginning of August. At least 16 of those were Palestinians who were killed during stone-throwing incidents where even the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesperson did not talk of life- threatening situation. And we think it is an extremely serious phenomenon that after five years, after all the experience, the IDF still cannot disperse a demonstration where the security of its men is not endangered without the use of lethal weapons.

[Weiss] The Palestinian human rights information center also held a news conference today and concluded that there has been no improvement in human rights in the territories since the changeover in government. Anita Vatuhi, director of research, said the killing of Palestinians by fellow Arabs does not count as a human rights violation, because the killings have not been carried out by state security forces.

[Vatuhi] The Palestinians feel very insecure right now from killing, no matter who is committing them, because they believe that there is no possibility of fair trial in the occupied territories. If a collaborator, for example, has been accused of murdering a Palestinian, people—Palestinians—feel that there is no legal recourse that they can take with the Israeli Government to put that collaborator on trial. Some people have taken the matter into their own hands. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 8 December carries a similar report, adding that in its news conference, the Betselem organization stated that "in the fifth year of the intifadah, there was a 20-percent increase in the number of Palestinians killed by the IDF compared with the previous year." Betselem officials reported that "923 Palestinians were killed by the security forces during the five years of the intifadah: 328 from the Gaza Strip, and 595 from Judaea and Samaria. The officials claimed that the number of fatalities dropped each consecutive year. In the fifth year, however, the number of those killed rose to 116 as opposed to 96 in 1991. The report also notes that 43 Palestinians were killed this year in the territories by the IDF's special units, almost twice the number of those killed by these units during the previous year. The number of Palestinians murdered by their brethren also rose by 30 percent during the fifth year, from 134 in the fourth year to 197. Since the beginning of the intifadah, 675 Palestinians have been murdered by their compatriots."

[The Betselem officials asserted that "there has been an exacerbation of violence in the territories over the past year. Aside from the number of fatalities as a result of IDF gunfire or the rise in the number of murders committed by Palestinians against their brethren, there has also been a rise in the number of IDF soldiers killed by terrorists, from two in 1991 to 12 this year. The number of Israeli civilians murdered by terrorists has risen from six in 1991 to 12 in the fifth year."]

Investigation Into Iraqi's Murder Continues

JN1012082792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Dec 92 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman—Agencies are continuing their investigation of the persons suspected of involvement in the murder of the Iraqi chemical engineer, Mu'tayyad al-Janabi, who was killed in Tabariyya Street in the Jabal al-Hussayn district of Amman on Monday.

Informed sources have said that the driver of an Amman-made car who drove the Iraqi engineer and his family from Iraq to Amman was, apparently, the person who led the assassins to the victim. The driver kept in touch with the victim and his family under the pretext of helping them.

The sources said the two persons suspected of involvement in the crime planned the operation three days before the victim went to the Tunisian Embassy to get a visa. They maintained a watch on him and noted his usual routes with the help of the car driver, who was arrested as he was trying to leave the country.

The two suspects were arrested in one of the major hotels. One of them was wearing a false beard and the other was masked at the time of the crime.

In a report yesterday, REUTER said officials have expressed anger because the crime took place in Jordan, which enjoys security and stability.

Gang Recruited by Iraq Blamed

NC0912145092 [Clandestine] Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Our news sources report from Amman that an Iraqi engineer was killed yesterday [as heard] while he and members of his family were walking in one of Amman's streets. The sources said that the engineer, Mu'tayyad Hasan Haji al-Janabi, was shot dead by two unidentified men using revolvers equipped with silencers. It is largely believed that the two assailants are affiliated with one of the terrorist gangs recruited by the regime of tyrant Saddam to stir millions and disturbances in neighboring countries.

The murdered engineer, a nuclear scientist, is believed to have fled to Jordan from the oppression of the Saddamite regime. The Jordanian authorities confirmed the report and said the wife of Mr. al-Janabi gave a description of one of the culprits.

Abu-Jabir Meets UN Team, Stresses Need for Peace

JN0912135792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1260 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that Jordan is pursuing a Middle East solution acceptable and satisfactory to all partners in the peace process. He said the ongoing peace process might be the last opportunity to bring peace to the region. Abu-Jabir warned of potentially dire consequences for the region if we do not make the most of this opportunity to ensure the right of all parties to live in peace.

Mr. Abu-Jabir, who was speaking to a visiting UN fact-finding team, stated that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Only when the Palestinian issue is worked out can the peace process possibly yield positive results, he emphasized. The foreign minister stressed the need for Israel to obligate itself to international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolution 242. While the resolution does not exactly meet the requirements of absolute justice, it does provide a compromise, added Abu-Jabir. For a solution to be found, Israel must pull out of all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, above all, Jerusalem, and provisions must be made for the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights.

He pointed out that peacemaking in the Middle East is necessarily a torturous, protracted undertaking, since it is about long-standing issues. Abu-Jabir said he was both optimistic and cautious over the prospects for the current Arab-Israeli talks. Jordan will not be an alternative homeland [for the Palestinians]; Jordan and Palestine are separate entities, he stressed.

UN Fact-Finding Team Ends Visit

JN0912212292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] A UN fact-finding team left Amman for Damascus this evening after a three-day working visit to Jordan. During its visit, the team met with the information, foreign, and water and irrigation ministers. The team also met with the head of the Palestinian affairs desk at the Foreign Ministry and a number of UNRWA officials. The team was briefed on developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordan's willingness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

A number of Information Ministry officials bid the team farewell at Queen Alia International Airport.

Abu-Jabir Denies Demarcation of Borders With Israel

PM0912165092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] Your Excellency Mr. Minister, there are reports and information that the process of demarcation of borders between Jordan and Israel has begun, and that an attempt to fix the border points has been made by air—which reflects major progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track, compared with the other Arab-Israeli fronts in the peace negotiations. What truth is there in these reports?

[Abu-Jabir] Actually those reports are absolutely unfounded. That report is completely untrue. The process of demarcating the border has not begun, nor has anything of this kind. All that has happened so far, 26 months after the negotiations started, is a semi-agreement in principle—not even an agreement in principle—on the draft agenda, which contains topics concerning basic issues not linked with the course of the negotiations, that is all. Actually this document was published before the Jordanian Government agreed to it. We had some questions about it. We submitted these questions and demanded that amendments be made. And discussions are still being conducted on this issue.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect progress in the next round with regard to this draft?

[Abu-Jabir] Progress would be achieved if the other side agreed on it.

[AL-HAYAH] What are your criticisms of this document?

[Abu-Jabir] Actually we have reservations about two or three points, and we have demanded that they be amended.

[AL-HAYAH] What are they? Is it possible for us to know them?

[Abu-Jabir] (Laughing) Do you mean.... excuse me. It is not possible now. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Some people say and emphasize that there is certain progress on the Jordanian-Israeli front in the negotiations compared with the other fronts.

[Abu-Jabir] It is in the interests of the other side to focus on this or that track from time to time.

At the beginning they focused on the Lebanese track, saying that there was no problem and that Lebanon could be singled out. Then they focused on the Palestinian track, saying that the negotiations had made great strides. Then they said: No. We want to focus on the Syrian track, and if we tackle the Syrian track issue, the whole matter would be settled. Everyone remembers, when the Syrian brothers submitted the draft declaration of principles, it was said that the issue between Syria and Israel was all but settled. The same applies to Jordan now with regard to focusing on this document. But that is not on the cards at all. This is because Jordan simply and very clearly insists on a comprehensive solution on all fronts, at all levels, and on all tracks, in order to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] But there is a disagreement among the negotiating Arab delegations over the concept of comprehensiveness to the extent that every Arab side tends to interpret this comprehensiveness according to its view and interests. So is there any serious understanding on the concept of this comprehensiveness?

[Abu-Jabir] In the end no peace can be achieved unless it is comprehensive. This means that we do not want a separate solution. In my view, that is what comprehensiveness and comprehensive solution mean.

Jordan does not at all want to secure a separate solution. That is clear. We believe that no separate solution would lead to peace in the region. In fact it could lead to further obstacles and instability. Proof of this is that even the Egyptian-Israeli peace—and Egypt is the largest and strongest state in the Arab world—is still cool and unstable. The reason is that in the end a comprehensive solution is needed on all fronts. That is, a solution that includes the Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese, and Jordanians, so that the region would stabilize in an acceptable way.

[AL-HAYAH] On that basis, is there special coordination between you and the Palestinians?

[Abu-Jabir] Yes, of course. First of all, I want to emphasize that there is good coordination among all Arab sides. We coordinate among ourselves after every round as foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] After a year of negotiations and in view of the changes taking place in the United States, are you optimistic about the Clinton administration?

[Abu-Jabir] It is not to do with optimism or pessimism. The new U.S. Administration said a number of things, one of which is that the president-elect wants to continue the peace process, and that he will appoint an envoy to follow up the process. And this is important, of course, because the United States is a cosponsor of the peace conference as a whole. But in the end we are the principal. Lebanese territory is our territory, and so is Jordanian territory. We are the people concerned. It is our right. It is a clear right before God and history, and we must defend it. The success or failure of the process depends on us in the first place. [passage omitted]

House Issues Statement on Somali Crisis

JN0912184392 Amman PETRA-INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Amman, 9 Dec (PETRA)—The House of Representatives has warned against exploiting the tragic situation in Somalia to accomplish wicked expansionist schemes, stressing that it is necessary to prevent any foreign party from achieving that objective.

In a statement issued today after the UN General Assembly decided to send foreign forces to Somalia under the pretext of restoring hope to the Somali people, the House urged the Arab and Islamic nation—peoples and governments—to rescue Somalia and to solve its humanitarian and political problems.

The House expressed its utmost and deep concern about the presence of the armed foreigner in Somalia—a presence that, as usual, is blessed by the United Nations. The

House wondered why the international community, headed by the United Nations, remained silent at the beginning of the Somali crisis and continues to be silent over the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Iraq, while these very same powers moved quickly to invade the Arabian Gulf at the outset of a crisis. The House of Representatives also wondered about the double standards used in humanitarian issues by the U.S.-led United Nations.

The statement said: Perhaps the mobilization of armies to restore hope in Somalia—under the pretext of maintaining international legitimacy—while adopting a spectator's stand toward Bosnia-Herzegovina, and ignoring the human suffering of the Iraqi people is real evidence of such double standards.

The statement added that the House of Representatives has been following the Somali crisis since its beginning with feelings of sorrow over the tribal fighting and the famine that has left thousands dead, not to mention other consequences. The statement said: The Jordanian people were waiting for Arab governments and the Arab League to use their financial and moral resources to help their Muslim Arab people, whose country is an Arab League member state, to put an end to their plight and restore unity to their territories and to save them from the claws of poverty and hunger. As usual, the Arab nation remained silent, thereby paving the way for Western enemy powers to exploit this conspicuous Arab absence and to seize an opportunity, which they have long awaited, to secure a foothold in this important, strategic region of the Arab homeland and of the African continent and to deal with regimes which these powers consider hostile to their plans. All this took place under the pretext of a humanitarian objective and UN resolutions.

London Club Rejects New Proposal on Debt

JN0812130692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 92 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A new proposal tabled by Jordan in its negotiations with the London Club of creditor banks made little headway and the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its commercial debts remain in limbo, sources said Monday.

However, Jordan is in a comfortable position since it has until June 30, 1993, to work out an agreement with the London Club, which carries about $1.2 billion of the Kingdom's debts.

The concession, although not formally granted, is expected to be given by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is impressed with Jordan's performance in adherence to an economic restructuring programme worked out late last year, the sources said.

"It is a foregone conclusion that Jordan would get this extension from the IMF, which is very sympathetic to the Kingdom's arguments," said Fahd al-Fanik, an economic analyst and columnist.

After running into a deadlock over the rejection by the London Club of a rescheduling proposal in September and its own refusal to accept a formula suggested by the creditor banks, Jordan sent a new offer to the steering committee of the club in November.

"But this also could not break the deadlock since the banks did not accept the new terms that Jordan offered," said a Western source, "since then there has been no evolution in the negotiations," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

The source as well as other economic experts said there was no "danger" of the creditor banks grouped in the London Club "retaliating" for the firm position taken by Jordan by posing banking difficulties for the Kingdom's exports and imports.

"It was a possible way for the banks to hit back at Jordan for its refusal to accept the terms offered by the steering committee," said the Western source. "But that is no longer valid since the losers will be the creditor banks themself as since they cannot hope to get every bank in Europe to turn down letters of credits issued in Jordan."

The basic disagreement between Jordan and the London Club stems from the creditors' refusal to grant the Kingdom terms that they see as setting a precedent in international debt relief and rescheduling negotiations.

"Apparently they feel that Jordan is too small a country to set a precedent," said Dr. al-Fanik. "If indeed that is their case, then Jordan can very well wait for another major Third World debtor to negotiate a deal with the London Club and then follow suit," he told the Jordan Times.

Jordan and the creditors disagree over applicable interest rates, discount on buy-back of partial debts and conversion of another part to investments and bonds in Jordanian dinars.

The Kingdom has managed to secure "side deals" with some of the creditor banks which it is buying back part of its debts at discounted rates higher than 50 per cent on principal as well as overdue interest.

"If this process continues ... Jordan's commercial debts may be reduced to one third of the nominal amount," Dr. al-Fanik wrote in a column last week.

In the meantime, some experts also argue that it is only a matter of time before Jordan could cut more separate bilateral deals with some of the London Club members outside an overall agreement with the group.

"Some of the Western banks are anxious to close their accounts with Jordan," said a European banker. "However, the amounts involved are relatively smaller and would not make much of a dent in the overall amount and interest."

According to Dr. al-Fanik, Jordan can hope for continued support from the IMF in view of its strict adherence to the economic structuring programme and the progress it has made in recovery.

Furthermore, he argues, the IMF—the international watchdog on eternal vigil to ensure that the Third World could pay off its debts—wants to project Jordan as a showcase success in line with IMF directives and therefore would not undermine the Kingdom's approach.

Decision To Bar Parties Examined

JN0712062692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Big Brother Politics"]

[Text] Jordanians cannot be blamed for whimpering every time they feel their democratic march is threatened by individuals, institutions or the application of some law. People have for too long yearned for political freedom and the right to participate in public life that any threat of a set back or a return to the pre-democratic era sends waves of fear through society. The latest controversy regarding the Ministry of Interior's decision to deny registration for two political parties—the Communist and the Arab Ba'th Socialist parties—on grounds that they violate both the Constitution and the law is an example. While we do not exonerate the minister of interior over his decision to bar the two parties, we do not see him violating either the Constitution or the National Charter. While the National Charter is only morally binding, the Constitution and the Political Parties Law are both open for interpretation. And that is where the fault lies. No one should blame the minister of interior and his lieutenants for interpreting the law the way they understand it. Only a proper court of law, in this case, and according to the law itself, the High Court of Justice can pass a proper judgement on the issue.

Jordanian politicians and writers should not feel betrayed then, since the minister's decision provides the country the first opportunity to test its judicial system. Every attempt to test the judiciary—notwithstanding the Shaheh al-Nafir al-Islami trial by the military court—has so far been foiled. The denial of the registration of both parties thus provides an occasion by which the higher court would examine both the Political Parties Law itself and its place within the Constitution. This is in fact where politicians and political writers failed in the first place. The major flaw in the Political Parties Law right from the outset is its undemocratic nature. Democracy, by definition, presumes people's participation in political life through direct involvement in the formulation of political parties and platforms and their control over these organizations. What the Political Parties Law did in fact, in essence, what politicians and parliamentarians did in the first place when they sanctioned the law, is to confiscate these basic rights and place them in the hands of the minister of interior, a legalized version of big brother politics. Therefore it is unlawful that politicians and political activists should now cry wolf over the minister of interior's decision.

The fault is not in the application of the law rather in the law itself. In the first place political parties should be sanctioned by the people who form them and not by the government. Perhaps this is the most important lesson that we should conclude from the present epic de. Accordingly the whole political and democratization process needs to be assessed and reversed. Political reforms need to be both genuine, progressive and bold. State control over peoples' political activity should be minimized and only limited to state security alone. In the new era citizens not ministers should become the guardians of democracy.

Nasrallah on Indian Mosque, 'Global Arrogance'

NC1012105892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has said that the forces of global arrogance, which fear the unity of the oppressed and unjustly treated people across the oppressed Third World, seek to increase fragmentation and internal quarreling in every country and society to eliminate any possibility of their rising and to create gaps through which to infiltrate and strengthen their political, educational, economic, and—if necessary—direct military presence to take control, as in Somalia.

Nasrallah said this in a statement to our radio in which he commented on the crime of destroying the Babri Mosque in India. He said that while we condemn this crime, we call first and foremost on the Indian Government to bear its responsibilities and realize the gravity of the event and its responsibility for it.

Nasrallah added: Events are not merely aggression on a mosque, but on all Muslim holy shrines, places of worship, and 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide. Events are also an aggression against the divine messages. You can't keep quiet about this aggression. The Indian Government should shoulder its responsibilities seriously and try to stop such excesses, aggression, and crimes against Muslim holy shrines, mosques, and areas in various parts of India. We also call for greater attention to and awareness by all the peoples of the oppressed and Third World of the steps taken and conspiracies woven by the forces of global arrogance.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC0812132492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In a statement today, the Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for a rocket attack against an Israeli patrol near the Tallazah position. The statement stresses that an Israeli Merkava tank, with all its occupants, has been burned.

Further on Resistance Attack

NC0912210092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Resistance fighters carried out an attack against a position of the occupation forces and the agents at Bayt Yahun crossing point. Israeli artillery shelled areas in western al-Biqa'. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent in Sidon cited security sources as saying that resistance fighters last night attacked the occupation forces position at Bayt Yahun crossing point in the central sector using automatic weapons and rockets. The Agent Lahd militia retaliated by launching a widescale raking operation against Wadi Saluqi and the neighboring villages. The agent's radio [Voice of the South] admitted the attack and the retaliation, but did not report any casualties.

The NNA correspondent in Hasbayya reported that at about 2230 yesterday the agent militia artillery in Ibil al-Saqy plain and al-Khiyam area in the occupied border strip shelled the southern part of western al-Biqa'. Eight 155-mm shells fell in the Birkat Jabbur, Jabal Abu Rashid, and Maydun areas, causing material damage. The shelling was accompanied by the firing of about 22 flares over the area extending from Jabal al-Dahr in the east to Taw'amat Niha and Kafr Huna.

Amal Claims 4 SLA Militiamen Wounded

NC1012124792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] In a statement issued today at noon, the Amal Movement announced that one of its units detonated a series of explosive charges on al-Tuhrah-al-Dabshah Road at 1120 today targeting a joint patrol of the occupation forces and their militia [the South Lebanese Army, SLA]. An Israeli (Reo) truck was destroyed.

The statement said three bodies were seen at the site of the operation in which four personnel were wounded and taken by Israeli ambulances to the militia positions in al-Tuhrah.

The Amal Movement statement vowed to pursue the path of resistance until liberation.

U.S. Moves in Somalia Termed 'Surprising'

NC0912203492 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Dec 92 p 11

[Ghassan Mukahhil article: "The Return to the Horn of Africa!"]

[Text] The step taken by U.S. President Bush's administration toward Somalia is surprising for several reasons, two of which are quite important. The first of these is that the famine tragedy in Somalia is not something new but has been going on for a long time. The second is that this administration is nearing the end of its term in office.

Even though the humanitarian factor and the pressure it constitutes, particularly in today's world with its open and widespread media, play a major role in exerting pressure on the U.S. Administration to make such a decision, they are definitely not the two primary or major factors in the decision to interfere.

There are other tragedies in the world besides the one of Somalia, such as the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, who are facing not only famine but evacuation and even genocide. Yet the U.S. Administration has not only desisted from sending troops but has

impeded several attempts on the part of the international community to intervene militarily to end the tragedy of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

There is no objection to an action aimed at alleviating the pains of the Somali people, who have been left to their fate for more than a year, but the U.S. course raises more than one question. Why the action on Somalia now and not two or 10 months ago? Does escorting food shipments require the dispatch of 30,000 U.S. troops with all their weapons?

It is difficult to separate the U.S. action on Somalia from steps taken by the U.S. Administration in the past months and even the past four years of its term in office on the political, military, and economic levels. All these various actions fall within the context of the U.S. endeavor to maintain its global supremacy and to fend off any competing power that might emerge following the Soviet Union's collapse.

The U.S. Administration has succeeded in completing several cases in this regard, but George Bush's surprise failure in the elections has deprived it of the opportunity to complete a number of other cases.

President Bush has undoubtedly tried in the past weeks to show some equanimity following his defeat and consequently sought to express this by attempting to complete pending cases. For example, he tackled the GATT talks issue and moved again toward the Horn of Africa.

The U.S. action on Somalia gives the impression that Bush is convinced that he can achieve something in a short time or at least place U.S. policy on the Horn of Africa and Sudan on the starting line.

This is not the first time that Washington has shown interest in this strategic region. It has undoubtedly played a role in unleashing the violent troubles of the past two years in the region, and those troubles completely changed the region's internal political picture.

Somalia is probably the only region that gives the United States the excuse to intervene to reshape the political situation in the Horn of Africa and the entire center of Africa so it will be in line with the new U.S. policy in the post-cold war era.

Continued U.S. Presence Seen Possible

NC1012120092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's decision to send military forces to Somalia—while pausing at the doors of the White House on his way out on 20 January 1993—no doubt is very vague. This ambiguousness starts with the timing, logic, and motives and continues with the objectives the outgoing Bush administration wishes to realize, especially since it was eager to command all the multinational forces dispatched to Somalia under the pretext of protecting convoys carrying relief to the starving. In fact, it placed the condition on the United Nations that it should command these multinational forces.

While some observers believe that the operation is not completely innocent, as Western propaganda organs attempt to portray it, they also realize that U.S. intervention at this point—when the U.S. Administration is being handed over, during which such important decisions usually are not made—is only the implementation of the plans and projects set up by cartels and strategists, normally considered the actual rulers of the United States regardless of who is president. They also are considered the ones who really benefit from all the frameworks of hegemony and power currently available to the last superpower in this world to exploit all the resources of oppressed peoples.

Similar information from different sources has revealed that numerous armed gangs that wrought havoc and corruption in all parts of Somalia were being supported directly by American intelligence. This fact is confirmed by the American human rights activist the Reverend Jessie Jackson, who said that the weapons used by the armed gangs in Somalia are of U.S. make and origin.

This decision by the U.S. Administration highlights its broader decision to interfere directly in all regions considered crucial and important to its strategic interests. After tightening its grip on the oil-rich Gulf region and legalizing its military presence in the majority of the emirates or shaykhdoms of the Gulf by signing joint defense treaties, it is now laying its hands on the Horn of Africa.

Talk of a limited period of stay for its armed forces before they are withdrawn—estimated by Pentagon men before the cameras and on television screens at about two weeks to two months at the most—is for local consumption. Article 8 of Resolution 794 contains a clear-cut paragraph entitling countries intervening in Somalia to take what measures they see fit to establish security and peace, continue relief operations, and transport humanitarian aid to the starving Somalis.

Under these glamorous slogans, appointing a new government in Somalia that requires a permanent U.S. presence along the lines of what happened in the Gulf cannot be easily ruled out.

Regrettably, the failure of the Islamic, Arab, and African countries to aid the Muslim, Arab, and African Somali people and help them overcome their problems, which brought them catastrophe upon catastrophe, once again has provided the opportunity for U.S. military presence and intervention under the pretext of humanitarian issues. This will create great anguish for all the Islamic, Arab, and African countries.

Information Minister: Damascus Declaration 'Dead'

MC0912201692 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1950 GMT 9 Dec

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said that the Damascus Declaration, in its security and economic aspects, is dead because it was born in unusual circumstances and because of the decision that each state has the right to adopt whatever measures necessary to achieve security, despite the signing of the declaration. On another level, Salman also called for coordination among the Arab parties to the peace talks.

Salman Expresses Surprise at Terrorism Accusation

JN1012113492 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (SANA)—In an interview published in today's AL-AHRAM, Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman stressed the need for coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace talks.

Dr. Salman said Syria led the call for coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace talks out of its belief that the solution must satisfy all parties.

The information minister asserted that Syria will not accept any separate solution because history has taught it that bilateral ties do not guarantee Israel's compliance. He added: Syria marches on the path of peace and is serious about achieving it in the region. It is impossible, however, to have peace in the Middle East as long as there are Arab territories under occupation.

Dr. Salman explained that the Arab parties seek a comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights of the Palestinians and restores their occupied territories. He said the Arabs have a responsibility to play an effective role to implement the international resolutions within the framework of international law. The information minister pointed out that this is what Syria seeks to realize in accordance with the U.S. initiative, which is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and in accordance with the land for peace formula.

Dr. Muhammad Salman also spoke about the Damascus Declaration, which is now dead in its security and economic aspects in view of the fact that it was decided that each state has the right to adopt whatever measures it deems appropriate to achieve its security, thus undermining collective Arab action.

The information minister said that the Arabs—like the Palestinians—are in a state of disarray. He noted that the Arabs will not yield to the serious setbacks to which they were exposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He added that, through Arab solidarity, the glorious October war succeeded in bypassing ordeals and confronting challenges.

Asked about Syria's rejection of Iraq partitioning, Dr. Muhammad Salman said: We in Syria cannot think of national interests at the expense of pan-Arab interests. This has been our stand in the past; it is our stand now; and it will continue to be so in the future.

Salman added: We believe that partitioning Iraq will change the situation in the region and will be a loss to the Arab nation in the interest of Israel. Pan-Arab interest calls for safeguarding Iraq's unity. We in Syria are not against the Iraqi people, but against their ruler. He also expressed his conviction that America and the Western community also oppose partitioning Iraq on sectarian basis.

The information minister expressed surprise that the United States believes that Syria is a terrorist country while its president meets with President Hafiz al-Asad, while it has an embassy in Damascus, and while the U.S. secretary of state makes dozens of visits. He said that Israel wants Syria to remain on the terrorism list. Consequently, he added, the United States walks on the same path while it is known that Syria objects to and rejects terrorist acts and that there is no evidence of Syria's involvement in terrorist acts.

Czechoslovak Ministers Meet Officials in Damascus

JN0712160092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Rudolf Filkus, first deputy prime minister of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, at 0930 today.

Attending the meeting on the Syrian side were Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and Subhi Haddad, Syria's ambassador in Prague. Attending the meeting on the Czech and Slovak side were Jaroslav Kubecka, minister of economy; Jan Klak, minister of finance; and Alois Reznik, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic's ambassador in Damascus.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

A session of official talks between the Syrian side, headed by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the Czech and Slovak side, headed by Rudolf Filkus, first deputy prime minister of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, began at 1015 today. [passage omitted]

During this session, bilateral relations and issues dealing with these relations were reviewed. Discussion focused on providing ways to develop bilateral cooperation in terms of current joint projects and in terms of future

projects. Discussions between the two sides also dealt with means necessary to reinforce bilateral relations in all fields.

Khaddam Receives Deputy Premier

JN0812194492 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Rudolf Filkus, first deputy prime minister of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, at 1830 today.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Subhi Haddad, ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Prague; and Czechoslovak Ambassador in Damascus Alois Reznik.

The attendees discussed the current international situation in general, and the situation in the Middle East in particular. They also discussed bilateral relations.

Al-Za'bi Receives Ministers

JN1012071492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Za'bi, this evening received Rudolf Filkus, first deputy prime minister of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and his delegation. Also attending were Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; and the ambassadors of Syria in Prague and Czechoslovakia in Damascus. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation within the framework of previous agreements. They also considered the future cooperation between Syria on the one hand and the Czech and Slovak republics on the other. Officials on both sides stressed their common desire to hold further contacts to advance mutual interests.

Israel Blamed for 'Unfair German Decision'

JN0912193692 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 29 Nov 92 p 8

["Opinion" column by Fu'ad Mardud: "Unfair German Decision"]

[Text] Apparently, a disease of political hypocrisy—to win Israel's satisfaction and blessings—has begun to shape German policy toward the Arab region, its nations, and issues.

It is also apparent that the blatant Israeli interference in German domestic affairs, which was manifested in public Israeli opposition to the reunification of Germany, has begun to bear fruit in practical terms.

For, the decision made by the Bonn government in the form of a government letter to all major research centers in Germany preventing them from, or "cautioning" them against, dealing with "requests made by scientific research centers in Syria", is essentially an attempt to cast doubt on Syria's stance toward the peace process and cloud its efforts to expose Israeli hypocrisy and falsity toward this process.

This decision also seeks to cover up the military cooperation between Bonn and Tel Aviv, which is conducted through an institution for "joint research" set up in 1987 after the visit of Hayim Herzog, president of the Zionist entity, to Bonn that year. The decision also comes after the recent agreement concluded during the visit of the German foreign minister and the German chief of staff to Israel ten days ago "to establish advanced political and military cooperation between the two sides", and following Germany's public pledge to supply Israel with advanced weapons.

A quick review of the size of the Israeli blackmail of Germany shows that this blackmail materialized in the more than 50 billion Deutsche marks paid by the Bonn government to Israel, in addition to soft loans totaling more than 200 million Deutsche marks. The picture becomes clearer if we examine the map of Israeli-German relations, which are among the strangest relations in history.

The Israeli who conducts commercial business capitalizing on alleged Jewish blood shed during World War II tries to tell the Germans that the "historical score between Germany and Israel would not end the way some people dream", according to what the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ said on 16 May 1987; that Tel Aviv is the legal heir of world Jews; and that Deutsche marks should continue to flow into the Israeli treasury.

The strangest thing about this relationship is the proposal that will be discussed by the Israeli Government today, Sunday, at the request of Israeli Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni, to take appropriate measures against the German Government because, according to the proposal, "it has not done enough to suppress Neo-Nazism"...and as a practical reply to the visit of the German minister and chief of staff to Israel, during which they responded to all Israeli demands, especially with regard to the issue of "taxes" levied by the Tel Aviv government from Germany, and Bonn's relations with Arab states, especially Syria.

It seems that the recent German decision against Syria and its civilized and technical advancement was made in this context and to satisfy Israel's desire to sabotage Syrian-German relations, especially after Damascus and Bonn have taken steady steps to bolster bilateral relations on firm bases and put these relations in a proper context to serve the two friendly nations, advance the peace process, and give Europe its natural role in the peace process.

Afghanistan

Fighting Continues in Kabul

Rabbani, Mas'ud Confer

LD0912164192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] [Words indistinct] esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], met today at Gulkhana Palace with esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the ISA defense minister; esteemed Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, minister of internal affairs; esteemed Lieutenant-General 'Abdorrahim Wardak, chief of the General Staff and [words indistinct].

Esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani gave specific instructions to the defense minister of the ISA on enhancing combat preparedness of the units, defending the lives and property of the people, and restoring peace in the capital.

Dostam Spokesman Interviewed

LD0912164992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Moments after the cease-fire between the forces of the Unity Party [Wahdat] and the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezzar], fighting broke out last night between the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and General Dostam.

A spokesman for General Dostam's Office in Kabul, in an interview with the IRIB's correspondent, said:

The clash last night occurred after an attack by the Supervisory Council forces against a northern force's post and after the wounding of 20 of the northern forces. During the clash, General Dostam's forces attacked Supervisory Council forces' positions.

According to our correspondent's report, an exchange of fire and sporadic firing of arms in Kabul abated this morning to a great extent.

Meanwhile REUTER and ASSOCIATED PRESS today claimed in their reports that the Afghan presidential palace and Ministry of Defense have been bombarded by that country's fighter jets. The latest report by our correspondent from Afghanistan speaks of the falsehood of these stories.

This is when Afghan President Burhanoddin Rabbani, in an interview today, stressed the need for the convening of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Hal wa Aqd Shura] for the purpose of determining the head of the Afghan government.

The clashes in Kabul in past four days have left around 1,000 casualties.

Uzbeks Seize Government Post

BK1012100792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 10 Dec 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 10 (AFP)—A key government security post in Kabul has been taken over by General Abdor Rashid Dostam's 53rd Division, but elsewhere in the Afghan capital the Uzbeks have begun pulling back to their bases, a Defence Ministry official said Thursday.

The official, a senior aide to Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, said Bala Hissar fortress, which guards the eastern approaches to the Afghan capital, was seized in fighting Wednesday night.

Mas'ud's Tajik Shura-Ye Nezar faction surrendered control of Bala Hissar to Dostam's 53rd Division and to the ex-communist regime's National Guard, with whom they shared this strategic base.

Shura-Ye Nezar base commander Kasim Khan was wounded in the fighting and evacuated to Kabul's 400-bed military hospital. A small number of Kasim's men remained holed up in a few houses in Bala Hissar, the aide said.

One of Dostam's men who took part in Wednesday's fighting said Kasim had tried to surround and capture them, but failed.

At mid-day Thursday, Dostam troops still had control of the main road leading west into the heart of Kabul. They also occupied sandbagged bunkers opposite the Eid-Gah mosque, about 500 metres (yards) from the entrance to the Defence Ministry.

Nervous Shura-Ye Nezar troops faced them from across the Kabul River with an assortment of tanks and heavy artillery.

Dostam's Uzbeks were relaxed and admitted no intention of attacking Shura-Ye Nezar.

"We didn't leave our bases in order to fight or to support any other groups, but to protect ourselves," one said.

He was referring to an incident Tuesday when Dostam's Uzbeks and Mas'ud's Tajiks clashed at an intersection near the Ministry of Public Health in the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic quarter.

An agreement between the Defence Ministry and Dostam's generals was reached Wednesday night for a withdrawal of the Uzbek forces.

On Thursday the occupying Dostam troops and tanks had pulled back from the intersection, which was taken over by troops from the Kabul Garrison and the Department of State Security.

Before they left, a Dostam general was seen arresting one of his men who had stolen a civilian's bicycle.

The road leading to Kabul's airport, which runs north from the intersection, was also under the control of government security forces.

Around the airport itself, Shura-Ye Nezar and Dostam troops returned to the posts they occupied before Tuesday's incident and the situation was calm.

In the public garden of Wazir Akbar Khan, Interior Ministry troops belonging to Rasul Sayyaf's Ittehad-e Islami faction remained dug-in, and Soviet-made T-62 battle tanks belonging to Shura-Ye Nezar had not moved from their defensive positions.

While Dostam's 53rd Division Uzbeks had pulled back towards their Maranjan Hill headquarters, they would remain in some key locations to protect their flanks, one officer said.

Presidential Palace Said Bombed

LD1012113992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Paktia to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] After a short break, battle resumed in Kabul yesterday. Reports arriving in Kabul state that current battles in Kabul, which began a few days ago, ceased for a few hours as a result of a cease-fire agreement. However, yesterday morning a bloody battle started between the two sides. Both sides subjected each other's strongholds to bombardment by heavy weapons.

The result of the battle is not known yet, but the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Islami [Islamic Unity Party] forces have claimed to advance. A responsible source of Hezb-e Wahdat in Kabul told a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom that its forces have completely seized TV hill and the building of the Ministry of Defense.

According to some new reports [word indistinct] military helicopters have bombarded some parts in Kabul, but so far it is not substantially known from where these helicopters have flown and whose position they have bombarded. The report says that two aircraft have bombarded TV hill, the presidential palace, Bala Hesar, and Jada-e Maywand. Also different parts of the city were subjected to artillery bombardment from Qargha division [west of Kabul], Tajbek [hill south of Kabul], and Bala Hesar [southeast of the city].

On the other hand, a source has claimed that Ittehad-e Islami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan, led by A. R. Rasul Sayyaf] has helped [words indistinct] against Hezb-e Wahdat in this battle.

Mas'ud Reportedly Captured

LD1012111592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Paktia to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Forces of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] have claimed that they have captured the minister of defense of the coalition administration, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. A large [word indistinct] of the current battle in Kabul, Hezb-e Wahdat which is engaged in battles against Shura-e Nezar of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, has claimed today that it has not only seized the Ministry of Defense, but has captured the minister of defense of the coalition administration, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Hezb-e Wahdat forces have also stated that the ex-chief of staff of Kabul's coalition administration, Asif Delawar, has also been killed in the course of the battle.

Hezb-e Wahdat Troops Being Arrested

LD1012115492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Paktia to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Jami'at-e Islami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] forces in the northern provinces are arresting Hezb-e Wahdat troops. A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom in Mazar-e Sharif, quoting eyewitnesses, reports that Hezb-e Wahdat supporters in the northern provinces are being arrested by forces of Jami'at-e Islami. The report adds that the Jami'at forces have seized a large number of Wahdat troops in [words indistinct] and Sheberghan. They are trying to search for other Wahdat troops.

Bangladesh

Students March in Support of 'Communal Harmony'

BK0912104692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 9 (AFP)—One Muslim man was stabbed to death here Wednesday [9 December] raising the death toll to five in two days of violence over the destruction by Hindu militants of a mosque in northern India, police and witnesses said.

The man was stabbed by unidentified assailants in Dhaka's old Sutrapur district, a predominant Hindu area, police said, adding they could not confirm immediately if it was linked to communal violence.

Earlier Wednesday, the opposition BHORER KAGOJ newspaper said three Hindu children were burned alive in southwestern Kutubdia Island off the Bangladesh coast and one 26-year-old man died in a Dhaka hospital of bullet wounds Tuesday during a Muslim backlash over destruction of the mosque. The deaths coincided with Tuesday's nationwide protest and violence sparked by the demolition of the 16-century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu revivalist groups Sunday.

Meanwhile, some 2,000 students from 16 political groups marched through the streets here carrying white flags and banners and placards, one of which read "Long live communal harmony." Major political groups are scheduled to hold similar marches later Wednesday in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh, party sources said.

As life returned to normal Wednesday in most parts of the country, a SAARC cricket tournament resumed here after being suspended Monday when fundamentalist Muslims attacked the stadium during a match between India and Bangladesh.

The Ayodhya incident forced the postponement of the two-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which was scheduled to start here Saturday. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman announced Tuesday. SAARC groups Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Reports said tension remained high Wednesday in southern Bhola district, where an indefinite curfew was clamped the previous day, as well as in central Manikganj and northeastern Sylhet districts where the authorities have imposed a ban on public assembly.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) told newsmen here Wednesday that fundamentalist groups including the Jamaat-E-Islami had used the Babri Mosque issue for "political gains" by attacking rival party offices along with Hindu property.

The CPB office in downtown Dhaka was damaged after fundamentalists torched it Monday.

Jamaat leader Shernur Rahman in a separate news conference Wednesday said "India wants to establish a Rama state in the region and was repressing its minority groups." The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) should impose economic sanctions on India to force it to rebuild the demolished mosque, he said.

Commentary Urges India To Return to 'Sanity'

BK0812132792 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed concern over the damage of the historic Babri Mosque in India. While giving reaction to the incident last night, she called upon the people to maintain communal harmony in Bangladesh at all costs. Begum Zia also called upon the people of Bangladesh to maintain peace and social harmony following the teachings of Islam. The Bangladeshi prime minister said the people of the country firmly believe in harmony between the communities and peace which they would maintain at any cost. Islam being the religion of peace, has taught all to exercise restraint and to be tolerant to other's faith and belief. Meanwhile, the Bangladeshi Government in an immediate reaction to the damage done to the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya said it is shocked and deeply concerned. It is a matter of concern that such an incident could take place in a democratic and secular country like India. The government also appealed to the people of Bangladesh for moderation and restraint in the face of all acts of provocation.

Almost all political leaders including leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, are critical of the sacrilege of the historic Babri Mosque. Hasina said the communal forces have raised their ugly head again in the subcontinent. Hasina appealed to all for maintaining an atmosphere of fraternity and cordiality at any cost against possible deterioration in communal relations. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has taken all precautionary measures to tackle any kind of communal violence in the wake of the Babri Mosque happening. Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles and police have been deployed in all vulnerable areas. The Home Ministry is keeping close watch on the situation. The law enforcing agencies have been put on high alert to meet any eventuality at any cost.

The Hindu fundamentalists' attack on the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya reflects the chauvinism that they pursue. At a time, the mosque was found by the Indian historians to be a place of worship by the Muslims since a long time, demolition of its three domes is a [words indistinct] by the Hindu revivalists, and this is a shame for secular India. It is a slur on Indian democracy. It is the time that the Indian political leaders sit together and bring sanity in the polity. More so, because the Hindu-Muslim harmony in India must be maintained at all cost. The Indian prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, is expected to order rebuilding of the domes of the Babri Mosque before it is too late.

Bangladesh is a land of perfect communal harmony. People in the South Asian countries have time and again proved that they are noncommunal by nature. If not, how could about 20 million Hindus in Bangladesh live in peace and harmony? It was the supreme leader of Christianity, Pope Paul, who was overwhelmed at the harmony existing between different communities in this country. Not a single communal violence was reported from any part of Bangladesh since 1975. Only several clashes occurred in some parts of Bangladesh during the rule of autocracy, and that, too, according to political observers, were created to perpetuate one-man rule against the backdrop of the mass uprising against autocracy.

People of Bangladesh will again prove this time that they are more noncommunal than others across the border. Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians have equal rights to pursue their religion, that is what the Bangladeshi Constitution says. The Constitution also says that Islam respects religion and at the same time it recognizes other religious communities on equal footing.

UNHCR, Government Disagree on Repatriation

BK0512065192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 5 (AFP)—Some 370 Burmese Muslim refugees left frontier camps for home Saturday [5 December] amid reports of differences between Bangladesh authorities and the United Nations, officials and a newspaper report said.

Officials in the frontier Cox's Bazar district said by telephone that 370 refugees, known as Rohingyas, left early Saturday in the fifth round of a repatriation process that began two months ago. A total of 1,526 Rohingyas have been repatriated since September.

However, the pro-government Telegraph daily said differences between the government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) could slow down the repatriation process.

UNHCR officials refused to interview Rohingyas at transit camps, alleging that they were being "forced" to leave, the newspaper added.

Local Bangladeshi officials rejected the allegations and told the newspaper that one UNHCR official was "left alone" to interview the refugees, but he later came out saying they were not willing to go.

The official then left with the repatriation papers of those he had interviewed, the officials said. The UNHCR stayed away from Saturday's and last month's repatriation.

Some 280,000 Rohingyas have fled their homes in Burma's Arakan province since March, 1991, alleging atrocities by Burmese troops. They are housed in 20 camps in the Cox's Bazar and Bandarban district.

Rangoon's military junta denies the refugees' allegations.

The repatriation is taking place after protracted negotiations on the basis of a Bangladesh-Burma agreement signed in April. Since the process started, the UNHCR and other aid agencies and government officials have blamed each other for instances of repatriation-linked violence, with Dhaka accusing some agencies of trying to foil efforts to coax the Rohingyas into returning home.

Fifty Hurt in Latest Rohingya Violence

BK0612060492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Dec 6 (AFP)—Some 50 people were injured when Burmese Muslims clashed with Bangladeshi police in a frontier refugee camp, Dhaka newspapers said Sunday.

The Dainik Bangla newspaper said several thousand Rohingyas, some with firearms, tried to mob officials and police Saturday who were planning to move a group of refugees from the Noapara camp to another site.

Police used batons and teargas to break up the crowd, and later fired shots into the air when it tried to assault the officials and snatch away police rifles, the newspaper said.

Those injured included deputy refugee commissioner Sobiuman Chowdhury and 15 police officers, it said.

The crowd eventually withdrew after hundreds of local villagers threatened to overrun the camp, Dainik Bangla reported, adding that additional police had been sent to restore order at Noapara camp.

Officials in nearby Cox's Bazar were unavailable for comment on the report.

Another newspaper, Ittefaq, said the police fought a three-hour gun battle with some of the Burmese Muslims, and that three of the injured were in hospital in serious condition.

It said the crowd had attacked about 190 other Burmese Muslims who were being transferred to another camp after having volunteered for repatriation. [passage omitted]

India

'Serious Concern' Expressed Over Pakistani Bombs

BK0412161892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, some members expressed serious concern over the reports of Pakistan having seven nuclear bombs. They demanded that the government should review its nuclear policy. Raising the matter during the zero hour, Mr. Mohan Singh, Janata Dal, alleged that the government is complacent about the security of the country.

U.S. Blamed for Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

BK0512114192 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Virendra Mohan Trehan commentary: "Pakistan's Nuclear Program"]

[Text] The revelation of the American TV network that Pakistan has built at least seven nuclear weapons, each of the size of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, and that Pakistan was going to use the bombs last year in February when India was busy in a military exercise may be embarrassing for some but is surprising to none. The timing of the disclosure is a trap being laid on India to sign NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] without getting it modified to make it universal in character. It also provokes the policymakers to use the writings on the wall and come down from the idealistic and moral approach in dealing with the security of the nation. It should also be a cause of concern for all those who look for a nuclear-free world.

After six months of investigation, the American TV network finds out that Pakistan has at least seven nuclear weapons of the size which destroyed Hiroshima and that the Pakistani military built its arsenal with help from the USA and other Western countries, using a lot of deceit. Through CIA, Senator Larry Pressler knew how far Pakistanis have come, that is, Pakistan has the capability within a matter of hour to have a bomb in an airplane

and flying it somewhere and dropping it. It means when President Bush was putting pressure on India to sign the NPT, the U.S. Commerce Department was acting as procurement agent for Pakistan. Pakistan agents were having a field day getting whatever they wanted in the USA and Western Europe. Commerce Department was letting Pakistan buy weapons technology by the tens of millions of dollars. It may be a big Pakistani scam for Senator John Glenn and Senator Pressler but not for President Bush.

The revelation also proves what India has been telling the U.S. and the world all along. Pakistan has been throughout playing double game, manufacturing nuclear bombs for its arsenal and getting India bound not to manufacture a nuclear device under the garb of one proposal or the other. Senator Pressler has echoed the feelings of many of his countrymen when he told American TV network, I quote, I wish we had more of aid cuts to Pakistan, unquote.

Regrettably, a nuclear Pakistan is Washington's own creation. Had the U.S. spent even a tenth of the energy it has spent trying to put India in a dock over NPT by putting embargoes, it might have stopped Pakistan from getting hold of nuclear detonator. Can USA even now stop Pakistan from selling them to Iran and other fundamentalist Muslim regimes? Will President-elect Bill Clinton force Pakistan to destroy its nuclear arsenal? It puts at stake the sincerity of the U.S. in seeing the world free of nuclear and chemical weapons. In fact, it is only the USA that supplied to Pakistan ultra sophisticated computers, oscilloscopes, and other critical equipment. The U.S. double standard has become fairly clear.

The timing of the disclosure of Pakistan nuclear capability is also meaningful. In fact, Director of CIA Robert Gates had made this information public a year ago. Just over two months ago, a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute had said that Pakistan is having enough enriched uranium to make about a dozen bombs. Even on two occasions, Pakistan had openly admitted possession of the bombs during Operation Brasstacks in 1986 to an Indian journalist Kuldip Nayyar and in February this year when Kashmir was boiling and Pakistan was apprehending retaliatory reaction from India. This had made Robert Gates to come to India and Pakistan on a peacekeeping mission. It has now been made known again after Bill Clinton has made nuclear nonproliferation one of his major foreign policy goals.

It is the time Narasimha Rao government to make the country go nuclear to counter the threat posed by Pakistan before the USA, other Western countries, and Russia put pressure on India. [sentence as heard] Any delay on India's part in procuring a nuclear weapon could prove counter-productive for the country's defense preparedness. India could also consider destroying Pakistan's nuclear capability as one of the options to meet the threat if the USA fails in its duty in destroying the same. The world opinion must be mobilized against Pakistan through diplomatic and other channels. Pakistan has always regarded India as its enemy and now she is emboldened by the enlargement of so-called Economic Cooperation Organization which hitherto comprised Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey and has far-reaching implications.

Attack on Karachi Consulate Protested

BK1012033492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] About 110 women and children related to the officials posted at Indian Consulate in Karachi were brought to New Delhi last night. This follows an attack on the residence of the Indian consul general on Tuesday [8 December]. Talking to our correspondent, the wife of Consul General Rajiv Dogra said she had never witnessed such treatment to members of diplomatic missions, though she had been to other countries. She said no protection was provided to them even though her husband had informed the Pakistan police about the possibility of an attack.

The External Affairs Ministry yesterday summoned the Pakistani high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. Riaz Hussain Khokhar, and lodged a strong protest with him over the attacks on Indian diplomatic premises in Karachi. He was told that lack of protection to Indian officials posted in Pakistan had led to such attack. A release issued by the Ministry said the Pakistan high commissioner expressed his regrets at the incident. He also mentioned that the Pakistan Government will be examining the case for compensation.

According to a railway spokesman in Amritsar the Samjhota Express [train], which runs between Amritsar and Lahore daily, has been suspended for the time being. The suspension follows an attack on the train by a mob on Monday in which Indian nationals on board were manhandled at Lahore railway station.

Attacks on Hindus in Pakistan Condemned

BK1012110692 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Commentary by C.K. Banerjee, special correspondent of INDIAN OBSERVER: "State Vandalism in Pakistan Against Hindus"]

[Text] The anger, passion, and violence in Pakistan against the minority community deserves condemnation. Pakistan, that is shedding crocodile tears for the Muslims in India on the demolition of structure at Ayodhya which had both temple as well as mosque, has itself gone on rampage in killing members of minority community and demolishing places of worship of Hindus. Some of the temples in Pakistan were historically as important as the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya, if not more. The nationwide call by the government in Pakistan for mourning and flying of flag half-mast at their mission buildings in New Delhi not only exposes

Pakistan for its fundamentalism but also for gross interference in the internal affairs of India. Anything happening to any community in India is the sole responsibility of the governments at the center as well as of the state concerned.

Interference across the border—whether it is from Bangladesh or Pakistan—is not only undesirable but also deserves condemnation. The Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, never raised an eyebrow when quite a few temples were demolished in the Kashmir valley by the Kashmiri Muslims at the abetment of Pakistan. The cooperation extended by the Pakistan police in the demolition of temples, in the looting of houses of minorities, and killings of the women and innocent children in Pakistan towns take away all moral rights to cry for Muslims in India, who are much safer and have been enjoying equality with the other communities in this land of secularism. The interference in the internal affairs of India in the name of Islam has become a routine for any leadership in Pakistan that misses no opportunity to fan communal riots in India to destabilize it.

For the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya, the Narasimha Rao government has promptly taken action in not only dismissing the Uttar Pradesh government and imposing president's rule but has also arrested leaders of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council]. The ban on the communal parties in the country is also in the offing. The government has gone on record to have promised the members of the Muslim community that the mosque would be rebuilt at Ayodhya at the state's expenditure. The legal responsibility has been fixed and the Supreme Court has even announced to try the UP [Uttar Pradesh] government and other responsible for the act suo motu.

Despite all this, should Pakistan and Bangladesh demolish the places of worship of Hindus in their countries and also make hue and cry of what happened in India? It is worse than making mountain of the molehill. At least 23 people of minority community were killed in various towns of Punjab in Pakistan when enraged Pakistani majority attacked the minority community and demolished more than 30 places of their worship. The temples in Lahore, Multan, and other places were razed to the ground with the help of bulldozers with Pakistani police standing there by. Similarly, 10 people of minority community were killed in southwestern Baluchistan Province. It was time for the authorities in Islamabad to show political maturity and display a sense of good-neighborliness. Regrettably, the government in Pakistan called for a general strike on Tuesday.

Pakistan's actions not only make the task of the Narasimha Rao government more difficult but also harms the interests of the Muslim community whose interests the Pakistan Government is pretending to protect. Even if the religious feelings of the people in Pakistan were injured, it never gives the Pakistani High Commission in India a license to violate diplomatic norms in such an irresponsible and provocative manner, flying the flag half-mast. The Pakistani envoy has made a mockery of his Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif's observations that the situation in India should be handled in a rational way.

Similarly, the killing and injuring of over 100 people and damaging scores of temples and property of the minority community in Bangladesh is condemnable. The Kodeswari Temple which has been demolished is one of the oldest shrines in Dhaka and is visited permanently by the minority community. The fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami and the 500 schools run by it have been teaching hatred against minority communities, saying that all those who have no faith in Koran deserve to be killed. Should the leadership of Bangladesh not control this kind of venom being spitted by Jamaat-i-Islami for the sake of peace and harmony in the region?

BJP, VHP Leaders Remanded to Judicial Custody

BK1012124092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] leaders—Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia, and Miss Uma Bharati—were today remanded to judicial custody for a week. Earlier, they were presented before the judicial magistrate, Mr. K.P. Singh, at Akbarpur in Faizabad District.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Faizabad and Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the city. All India Radio special correspondent Rangi Tripathi, after going around Ayodhya, reports that the security arrangements have been further tightened at the disputed complex. Forty-seven people were arrested today for Sunday's disturbances in Ayodhya.

Mob Attempts To Free Advani, Joshi

BK1012095892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Dec 10 (AFP)—Thousands of angry Hindus stormed a small airstrip near here Thursday after four arrested Hindu leaders were flown in to face trial for the demolition of an ancient mosque. Nearly 5,000 slogan-shouting Hindus invaded the airport at Akbarpur, 65 kilometres (40 miles) from here, shortly after the 10-seater aircraft landed at 11:45 a.m. (0615 GMT).

A makeshift courtroom had been set up at the airport and officials and their prisoners were waiting for proceedings to begin when the mob attacked in a bid to free the leaders. There were only about 25 policemen at the scene, but sources said reinforcements were expected.

The Hindu leaders, included Murli Manohar Joshi and Lal Krishna Advani of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party). Joshi, president of

the BJP, said Advani, wanted by the party as a prime minister-in-waiting, were flown to Ahmedpur to face charges of inciting communal unrest which led to Sunday's destruction of the mosque here. The other Hindu leaders in the aircraft were Uma Bharati, a BJP MP, and Vishwa Hari Dalmia, a leader of the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council). They were among eight Hindu leaders arrested Tuesday.

Thousands of frenzied Hindu zealots tore down the 16th century mosque here Sunday with the intention of building a temple to their warrior god Rama on the site. The destruction sparked large-scale communal rioting across the country which has claimed more than 760 lives and left hundreds injured.

Advani Says Mosque Never To Be Rebuilt

BK1012103092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Dec 10 (AFP)—Advani and Joshi told reporters as the siege continued that Hindus, who make up more than 80 percent of India's 870 million people, would never allow the government to rebuild the fallen mosque, as it has vowed to do.

"The reconstruction will not be allowed at any cost and nobody will tolerate it," Joshi said. "If the government persists, it will further complicate the situation." Joshi and Advani also denounced their arrests and impending trial.

"The hush-hush manner in which the trial is being conducted, when it is supposed to be an open one, exposes the guilty mind of the government," Advani said. "Its consequences for the government will be suicidal."

The mob kept up a steady chorus of slogans, expressing solidarity with Joshi and Advani and vowed to raise a grand temple on the mosque rubble, but there was no apparent violence.

Party Affirms 'Full Faith, Confidence' in Rao

BK1012011892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee has endorsed the government's action on the Ayodhya issue. A resolution, adopted unanimously in New Delhi last night at its informal meeting, reposed full faith and confidence in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao.

Briefing reporters, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the party has decided to seek the cooperation of all like-minded parties and secular forces in the fight against communalism. All party MP's have been directed to set up peace committees and organize peace marches in their constituencies. He said the need of the hour is restoring law and order and the situation calls for firm action.

The Congress-I Working Committee has also decided to set up relief committees at the state and national levels to provide relief to the people affected by the violence.

More Troops Needed in Calcutta

BK1012084692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0837 GMT 92

[Text] According to a message just received, the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja, has asked the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, to send more paramilitary forces to West Bengal to assist the state government in dealing with the fresh violence in and around Calcutta. The minister also requested the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, to make adequate troops available to the state government.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders Issued

BK1012100092 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0930 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] In Calcutta, the government has issued shoot-on-sight orders and deployed the Army in the curfew-bound, trouble-torn areas of the city. Making an appeal on Calcutta Doordarshan [television], the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, said the government would not tolerate any violence in the name of religion. He urged the people to remain calm and said the Army and police have been asked to fire at troublemakers on sight. Our Calcutta correspondent Subhashish Sur reports that this followed when seven persons were killed and some others were injured in clashes in some parts of the city since last night. Curfew will continue until further orders in all police stations of Calcutta and 12 police stations of the neighboring districts of Howrah.

The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. Ajit Panja, has requested the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, to send more paramilitary forces to West Bengal to assist the state government in dealing with the outbreak of fresh violence in and around Calcutta. He also requested the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, to make adequate troops available to the state government for deployment. Mr. Panja also spoke to Mr. Jyoti Basu.

A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report, quoting official sources, says that in a fresh incident of violence in Gujarat, at least eight passengers of a Surat-Jalgaon-bound train were killed early this morning. The tragedy occurred around 0900 this morning when an infuriated group of people stopped the train at Udna near Surat, pulled some passengers out of the train and killed them.

Situation in Violence-Hit States Updated

BK1012093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Reports from various state capitals indicate that the law and order situation in the violence-hit areas is steadily improving. In Uttar Pradesh, no major incident

has been reported from anywhere since last night. Curfew is in force in 34 cities and towns. Unnao town has been placed under curfew. The situation in the twin cities of Ayodhya and Faizabad continues to be peaceful. Over 3,500 people have been arrested in connection with the violence in the state.

In Assam, the situation is under control in trouble-hit Nowgong, Dhubri, and Goalpara Districts. Army is assisting the administration in maintaining law and order. The state chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, today made an extensive tour of the Goalpara District for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

In Bihar, curfew has been relaxed for four hours in Ranchi and Jamshedpur from 1100 today. No untoward incident has been reported from any of the 13 curfew-bound towns in the state.

In Bombay, life remained disrupted for the fourth consecutive day today. Municipal buses, taxis, and autorickshaws are off the road. In the worst-affected Deonar and Dharavi areas, there are reports of sporadic incidents of stone throwing and arson.

In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Khedbrahama in Sabarkantha District and Bahaimer in Kheda District following stone throwing and stabbing incidents.

In West Bengal, curfew has been reimposed in all the 35 police stations areas of Calcutta, 12 police station areas of Howrah and the Barrackpore subdivision of North 24 Parganas District. All the educational institutions are closed today. Police opened fire last night to control an unruly mob, in which seven people are reported to have been killed. The state chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, told newsmen a short while ago that the situation in Calcutta is tense but under control. He said that a shoot-at-sight order will be issued, if necessary.

In Karnataka, army units have been sent to Mysore and Devangere to assist the local police as and when required. The state director general of police told our Bangalore correspondent that the situation has improved and is well under control.

In Orissa, curfew has been reimposed in nine police station areas in Cuttack city. It will remain in force till tomorrow morning. The state home secretary has strongly denied rumors that water in Cuttack city is contaminated. In Kendrapara, curfew was relaxed for three hours from 0900 this morning. The town remained incident-free during the curfew relaxation period.

Curfew relaxation began in phases of two hours each in the walled city and parts of East Delhi this morning. The police said the first curfew relaxation was ordered from 0800 this morning following marked improvement in the situation. No untoward incident was reported from any part of the capital till noon. Schools also reopened in the capital after two days.

Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are observing a 12-hour bandh [strike] in protest against the happenings in Ayodhya. Our Madras correspondent reports that the bandh is total in Tamil Nadu. Vehicles were off the road and rail and air transport have come to a standstill. In Pondicherry also, vehicles are completely off the road and shops and markets are closed.

CPI Team Says Mosque Demolition 'Preplanned'

BK1012115892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The Janata Dal says a commission of inquiry should be instituted immediately to investigate all aspects of the happenings in Ayodhya. The central secretariat of the party, which met in New Delhi, appealed to the people to exercise restraint and maintain communal harmony during this grave hour.

A CPI [Communist Party of India] team which visited Ayodhya says the demolition of the masjid [mosque] on the 6th of this month was preplanned. A three-member team comprising Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta, Mr. Vijaya Kumar Yadav, and Mr. Taj Narain Singh blamed that the district administration did not take any serious action to prevent the demolition of the structure by a few kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction].

Iran

Radio Commentary Assesses U.S. Aims in Somalia

LD0912142592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1109 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] If Somalia's warring factions refuse to cooperate with the United Nations in overcoming that country's crisis, the United Nations will replace the present government with a transitional government.

UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali made this clear as 30,000 U.S. Marines arrived in Mogadishu to prepare for the arrival of more forces. The most important issue currently analyzed and discussed in political circles is whether the U.S. mission is limited to guarding the consignments sent to assist the famine-stricken people of Somalia or whether the mission of these forces will go far beyond the objectives described in UN Security Council Resolution 794. Some political observers have concluded that because the number of engaged forces is increasing gradually, the current situation indicates that the objectives go far beyond guarding humanitarian aid.

Somalia, with its population of five million, has been beset with a bloody civil war for over a year and seems too helpless to resist the arrival of the extensive forces of the United States and its allies, which are landing at Mogadishu gradually. When the allied forces deployed a

similar size military force in the Persian Gulf war, at least they had the excuse of facing Iraq's well-equipped and organized army. However, Somalia is a country without a central government or an organized army under a unified command and does not pose a serious threat to the United States and its allies. Although the militia loyal to Mohamed Farah Aidid's faction had threatened to prevent the forces from entering the areas under their control, as reported this faction also officially announced that it will avoid any confrontation with the forces. Thus, it is now obvious that none of the Somali factions will resort to a serious move against the forces. Therefore, the military action in that country can be described as operations resembling a military maneuver.

When we accept the probability that the U.S. mission goes beyond supervising food distribution in Somalia, the main objectives of these operations can be sought in the strategic location of the Horn of Africa and the existing conditions in that region. This goes beyond the articles of Resolution 794. After the disappearance of former Soviet bases from the Horn of Africa, the U.S. presence now can complement Washington's influence along the Persian Gulf-Red Sea axis. Furthermore, the United States intends to control the main arteries of the energy route to the West. It can then exploit its control as a means of winning in the international arena. Of course, one should also notice the gradual U.S. takeover of the French and British traditional bases in the Horn of Africa.

U.S. President George Bush has said that he wishes to see U.S. troops return from Somalia by 19 January 1993, when he hands over the Presidency to Bill Clinton. The experience of the Persian Gulf war makes one suspicious of Bush's remarks, because before attacking Iraq, the United States also announced that it would leave Persian Gulf waters after the end of the war. Nevertheless, after the Persian Gulf war not only did the United States not leave the region but it further strengthened its presence in the area by signing military pacts with some Persian Gulf countries.

Through ratification of Resolution 678, the United States obtained permission to remain in the Persian Gulf and now considers Resolution 794 an endorsement of its presence in the Horn of Africa. What seems important now—and what creates some doubt in political circles—is clear contradictions between the remarks made by U.S. officials and the articles of Resolution 794. Previously, greater stress was being laid on the U.S. operations under the auspices of the UN and under that organization's flag. However, the evidence now strengthens the probability that operations of the forces dispatched to Somalia will go beyond the framework of the Security Council resolution. Therefore, one must take Butros-Ghali's proposal on possibly changing Somalia's governing system seriously because the UN secretary general's proposal might lead to a puppet government backed by the United States. If that were to happen, it would be considered a serious threat to the countries of the region.

This is the second time since the end of the cold war that the Security Council has left the implementation of its resolutions to the member countries under U.S. leadership and without any guidance from the United Nations. Last year, it was in the Persian Gulf; this year, it is in Somalia. Will there be another strategically important region in the near future?

Demonstrators Attack Indian Embassy in Tehran

LD1012102292 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, (IRNA)—A group of some 300 angry Indian theological students, residing in Iran, attacked the building of the Indian Embassy here this morning with stones and clubs in protest to the last Sunday's destruction of the historical Babri mosque in Faizabad, India.

Several windows were shattered by the angry protestors who tried to enter the embassy building. However, they were immediately stopped by the law enforcement forces present around the building.

The attack by the angry Indians on their Tehran embassy was immediately stopped by the timely and prompt intervention of the law enforcement forces.

IRNA reporters said the angry protestors were still in front of the embassy until 12:00 hours local time (08:30 GMT). They wanted to visit the Indian ambassador and ask him to explain why his government failed to stop the Hindu vandals in demolishing the Babri mosque in Faizabad. However, the embassy staff said the ambassador was not in office.

The law enforcement forces, stationed around the embassy building, have tightened the security belt round the embassy.

Friday Sermon Treats of Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD0912175192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Second Friday prayer by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati at Tehran University on 4 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Another issue is the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue, which has really become difficult. We have many difficult issues—I have only red to three—like Iraq. One of our dear friends was relating something. If I really didn't know him to be an honest, truthful, and trustworthy man, I would not have believed it. He was saying that they live under such conditions that sometimes they have to pay 20 Iraqi dinars for a one-liter bottle of water. When water is priced like that, you can imagine what the rest is like!

Then, there is the Somali issue, the Unosomal former Soviet republics, and elsewhere. We are in extremely difficult circumstances. Islam and Muslims are in difficult circumstances. Islam and Muslims are in difficult circumstances. The enemy has picked his times to annihilate Islam. Fighting in Bosnia continues with the same intensity. The cold is an added burden. The pressure on cities increases every day. People continue to flee; massacres continue.

Of course, we must officially announce our thanks to His Excellency Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and the extremely sympathetic and compassionate government of His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani—may God keep him—who most sympathetically have these events in mind and convened the extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Some resolutions have been issued, as well. In any case, they did what was politically possible. May God reward them. However, the issue goes much farther to be resolved with such things. If the foreign ministers of Islamic states and the heads of Islamic states want to do something, they must really pressure the United Nations, the Security Council, and international centers. They must officially announce: We will react if things continue this way. At least we have authority over our own oil. We will not sell oil to those who help them, to those who keep silent in the face of all the atrocities. How long can one keep silent? Don't newspapers sometimes write about their crimes? I wish they would not write about some of them, things that when one reads about them one cannot contain oneself anymore and wishes for release through death. These things happen in Islamic countries; troubles are wreaked on Muslims, and there is no redress.

The West intervenes and sends forces into any place it chooses. Take the Somali issue: The resolution was adopted; it was decided that they should intervene there militarily. The United States, their ringleader, must go there for their political objectives and to safeguard their own interests. They go there as easily as that.

However, they neither intervene nor allow others to enter nor lift sanctions in Bosnia. Why should not an empty-handed nation be able to defend itself? Why do you say that no one has the right to send arms to them? After all, they do not want to seize anyone's territory. They do not want to dominate another country. They want to defend their lives, their factories, their wives and children, their honor. Why do you not allow arms to be given to them? If you don't go to intervene there yourselves, let them receive arms. They will safeguard themselves by themselves. They have reiterated many times that what they need is arms. They say they have the force—and they really have stood up bravely so far—and do not need any more fighters. They ask for arms, but...[interrupted by shouts of "God's blessing on Muhammad and his sons"] The issue of arms is facing problems in this way. God willing, we hope that God sends some relief to these dispossessed, tyrannized, and wretched people.

Regarding the dispatch of force there, time and time again volunteers have told us—by letter, by telephone, by word of mouth—that they are extremely and impatiently waiting to go there, but we are unable to send them. Even if someone goes there by himself, he won't be able to do much. As I said, Bosnian Muslims say they are not short of fighters but short of arms. Therefore, I ask you, friends, not to insist too much because we can't help. It is impossible for us to send forces there.

Some 90 or so wounded people have been brought here, to hospitals. They had to be hospitalized for some time. Some need more treatment than others. When they get better, they will be our guests as long as they wish. For the future, as well, if conditions are right and the need arises, they will bring another group of wounded. This group of 90 or so youths is the first group of wounded to be brought here. [passage omitted]

We have not yet been able to decide on bringing in children. Some problems have not yet been resolved. Some of the gathered donations and goods have been sent and some are ready to be sent. The cash that has been accumulated is sometimes exchanged for goods and sometimes for dollars for the purchase of goods in Bosnia. The best way is to buy the goods there so that we don't incur the heavy transport expense. Goods can be obtained there at prices comparable to those here—sometimes cheaper—and can be transported more easily. Of course, there are some transportation difficulties. The roads are not open and free to the extent for any consignment to be dispatched safely and completely. However, we must try as hard as possible to get any amount of aid to them. [passage omitted]

I cannot overlook—although time has run out, but it must be mentioned—the atmosphere that the enemy's poisonous propaganda has created to make trouble for us. On the one hand, they are spreading rumors that Iran is arming herself with weapons that could be used to attack others and not for self-defense alone and that she would be armed with nuclear weapons in the future. They keep putting fear in the hearts of others that Iran is slowly becoming a second Iraq, a second Saddam, and will threaten everybody. It is not so if they are unknowingly lying; they know better than anyone else that it is a lie.

That is how politics works. What can they do with their arms factories? If they close them down, it would entail a great deal of layoffs and expense. The arms factories have the biggest expenditures at present. What can they do? In the past, they frightened all the rich and Persian Gulf countries, saying that if you go even an inch beyond the line we have drawn, the Soviet Union will come in and communism will take over and destroy everything. They used to frighten people with communism.

Communism failed. They now must create a bogeyman for them and empty their pockets and run the arms factories. Some people say they have signed arms agreements worth nearly $200 billion in the Persian Gulf.

What do they want to do with that much? What need have they for so many weapons? They could only sell them those weapons if they tell them: Iran is arming herself, and Iran will attack and destroy you if you move too late; therefore, you must prepare for war and should defend yourself.

That was one conspiracy, one plan. The other plan concerns some Arab countries that have domestic problems, where Islam is growing. They have been brought to their knees in the face of the Islamic movement and cannot resist. They want to suppress this movement and need an excuse. The best justification is that the movement is inspired by a foreign country; that they are tools in the hands of others; that others are guiding them, helping them, training them, and so forth; that they are foreign agents; and that others are interfering in the country. That is the best excuse that would appeal to the world. They have resorted to that ploy. Egypt is doing that; Egypt is the leader. Then there is Algeria, and then Tunisia.

When it concerns people who say we want an Islamic government, we want the implementation of Islamic laws, we do not want foreigners to interfere in our politics, we do not want to have ties with Israel, we do not want to surrender to Israel, and we do not want to surrender to the United States, it really requires impunity to treat them like that and accuse them of being guided and inspired by foreigners. I say to them: Be assured that you will fail because the wave that has risen will not ebb, a wave that has risen from the depths of the being of the brave and alert people and youths, a wave that cannot be stemmed; surrender yourselves to the wave; do not suppress it, for you cannot. They should know that. Otherwise, they could do nothing but make trouble for themselves and some bother for us.

What are we doing here? This government has so much trouble in its reconstruction program. One should really pray for and support our very dear and valuable brother, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and his honorable government who are running the country while fighting a mountain of problems and striving in the face of so many conspiracies that are being hatched abroad. Inside the country, they have problems relating to reconstruction and other issues and shortages and sanctions. We are preparing ourselves. If it involves arms and military equipment, that is because we want to defend ourselves so that if there is another Iraq tomorrow, and it attacks us, it will not be like before, when we were totally unprepared and they came and occupied parts of our country. At least we should prepare ourselves to prevent others from crossing our borders. We should not fight with difficulty for eight years only to throw them out after they have entered. That is the point. That is what is causing so much fear for them.

We are Muslims. We respect the rights of others. We respect the lands of others. We do not covet non-Muslim lands, let alone Muslim and neighboring lands. We are brothers of all Muslims and are not at war with anyone who is not at war with us. [crowd chants "God is great"] [passage omitted]

Jannati Calls for Islamic Army

LD0512225892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Jannati, the supreme jurisconsult's representative in the Bosnia-Hercegovina support Headquarters, today visited the Bosnian wounded in a Tehran hospital today. During an interview with our correspondent at the end of his visit, he called for the formation of an international Islamic army. He urged Islamic countries to use the tool of an oil embargo to pressure the Serbs. He also urged increasing pressure on international circles to force them to pay attention to the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Amphibious Exercise Begins in Persian Gulf

LD0612184892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] In the endeavor to maintain the alertness of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, joint Shahamat [Bravery] wargames started this morning in the Persian Gulf. Our correspondent in Bushehr has sent the following report:

The amphibious wargame started this morning with the participation of the forces of the Second Region of the Naval Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp of Bushehr Province, in an area of 450 square nautical miles in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf. This wargame is being held to assess the combat capacity and the training of the forces. The seven-stage exercise will last four days.

The first stage consisted of the gathering of the commanders of the participating units, operational briefings, communications and navigation systems checks, and service and material loading control.

Second Stage Carried Out

LD0712174692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The second stage of the Shahamat [Bravery] wargame was carried out, with full success, today in the operational regions of the Persian Gulf.

According to the Central News Unit, the wargame—which included blind navigation, mine planting and mine clearing, attacks by divers against imaginary enemies, defense operations by divers against the reactions of the imaginary enemy, and capturing beachheads as well as the removal of obstacles—was carried out successfully by the marine forces of the second region of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

The Shahamat wargame will continue in the waters of the Persian Gulf tomorrow.

Prospects for Arab-Israeli Talks Examined

NC0912144292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. The eighth round of bilateral peace talks between Arab and Israeli delegations commenced in Washington yesterday. Most observers believe the talks will have no tangible outcome. A few days ago the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and the leaders of the Palestinian delegation met in Beirut to coordinate their stances on the eighth round of talks.

Similarly the PLO met at its headquarters in Tunis and eventually announced that the Palestinian delegation will be sent to participate in the eighth round of bilateral talks. Undoubtedly, the PLO decision emphasizes the PLO role in the peace talks. Officially there is no PLO delegate participating in the talks, but everyone knows and has accepted that the PLO controls the Palestinian delegation from afar.

The remarks of the participating Arab side on the talks' fruitlessness and the fact that until President-elect Bill Clinton officially enters the White House no one is prepared to bestow any concessions on the present Republican U.S. Government have motivated observers to believe the bilateral talks will not achieve any breakthrough.

The Arab side accuses Israel of not having any plan for issues to progress in the eighth round of talks and of waiting for the new master of the White House to begin his work officially. The eighth round of talks might possibly have the same outcome as previous rounds, but this does not mean there will be no progress within the framework of the U.S. plan. Washington has achieved its main objective, bringing the Arab governments nearer Israel and to a great extent thawing the ice between the two sides to this chronic tussle.

Similarly you cannot ignore that the Zionist regime is moving step by step toward an official recognition of the PLO. The regime's parliament has revoked the law banning meetings with official PLO members during the initial deliberations. The Israeli prime minister has also mentioned the possibility of including the PLO in subsequent stages of the talks. The initial U.S. plan envisaged autonomy being implemented in occupied Palestinian territory by now so that an important step might be taken toward reaching a final agreement on peace between the Arab and Israeli Governments.

But this has not happened and in view of Israeli extortionist policies, you cannot expect a struggle of nearly 100 years to be resolved in a year. Even if it were so, it is clear that, as the Palestinians themselves believe, their rights might not be removed.

* Kish To Build Industrial Units in Azarbaijan

91A50220D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAT in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran. KEYHAN-E HAVA'I NEWS SERVICE. 4 Aban-26 October. Mohsen Mehr'alizadeh, the director general of the Kish Developmental Agency, who traveled to Baku, met with Rahim Hoseynzadeh, the prime minister of Azarbaijan, and discussed cooperation between the Kish free zone and the Azarbaijan Republic.

According to a report by the public relations office of the Kish Developmental Agency, the head of the board of directors and director general of this agency, accompanied by a delegation comprised of directors general of private companies that have invested in Kish, traveled to Azarbaijan to study the grounds for joint cooperation with the newly independent Azarbaijan Republic.

In his visit with the prime minister of the Azarbaijan Republic, the director general of the Kish Developmental Agency announced that at the present more than 50 flights per week connect Kish to other parts of Iran and invited Rahim Hoseynzadeh to travel on the first flight to Kish and visit the existing facilities there.

In another part of his speech, he enumerated the vast recreational and tourist resources of Kish Island, and referring to the volume of investments made in the area of tourism on the island, he asked for cooperation between Kish and the Azarbaijan Republic in economic and tourism areas.

Rahim Hoseynzadeh, the prime minister of the Azarbaijan Republic, in this visit expressed readiness for joint cooperation and said: The Azarbaijan Republic is willing to create free trade zones to facilitate exports and imports and in this area needs to make use of the experiences of the Kish Developmental Agency.

Then Mehr'alizadeh as a first step proposed the establishment of two flights per week between Kish and Baku and in regards to the issuance of visas in Kish explained that visas for foreign visitors to Kish will be issued in that island and this is considered an important factor in facilitating tourism and trade visits. He added: If visas are also issued in Baku for passengers who have traveled from Kish, the number of passengers will increase significantly, which will be followed by improved trade.

The director general of the Kish Developmental Agency added: The accompanying delegation is ready to show the power and capability of the Kish Developmental Agency in the area of industrial investment and trade so that in Baku it can establish an exhibition and open stores. In conclusion, he said: In the area of industries we are prepared to build at least 10 industrial units in Baku

immediately and also be active in participation to complete and operate the existing industrial projects in the Azarbaijan Republic.

• Besharati: IRI Simply Replacing Lost Weapons

91AS0224B London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] announced that it does not intend to buy nuclear weapons but is trying to replace the weapons that it lost in the course of eight years of war with Iraq. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, termed what the foreign press writes about Iran trying to procure nuclear weapons lies and conspiracies.

Besharati said: "We do not need nuclear weapons. In addition, Iran is a signatory to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons." Besharati added that in September when Iran announced it was planning to buy a small nuclear power plant from China, the Western countries started to make noise, but Iran needs this power plant for peaceful purposes.

Besharati continued: Our neighbors, one after another, are signing defense treaties with Western countries. Why should we not procure military equipment? He said: Seven months of occupation of Kuwait by Iraq showed that we must rely on ourselves militarily but at the same time our policy is respect for international standards and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Second Logistical Troop Carrier Launched 8 Dec

LD1012033292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The second logistical troop carrier, called Nai-band 659, was launched on 8 December from the fleet of the first naval region of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army at Bandar Abbas. This troop carrier can move more than 100 personnel with full gear. The troop carrier Nai-band 659, with a capacity of 1800 hours [as heard], was built by workers of factories of the first naval region of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army.

Families Said To Protest Demolition of Homes

NC0912222792 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Hundreds of families of the victims and war disabled of the antinational war by the Khomeyni regime staged a sit-in in Qazvin to protest the demolition of their houses and shelters by the agents of the Khomeyni regime. During this sit-in, which continued for a week, these families sat on pieces of carpet on the sites of the razed houses and staged numerous demonstrations against the Khomeyni regime.

The guards of the Khomeyni regime, who were frightened of the scale of the protests, fired in the air. Reports state that the demolition of the houses of the families of the war victims and disabled of the antinational war was carried out by the agents of the Khomeyni regime in the Shahrak-e Ghaeb area near the Modiriyat bridge district in Qazvin.

• Paper Reports People's Continued Maltreatment

91AS0224A London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] With the ratification of a proposal in the Majles, according to which the Basijis can act "like" the Justice Department officers and in the absence of these officials or "their not responding in time" engage in arresting the "accused" to prevent the "destruction of criminal evidence," maltreatment and suppressive acts have escalated again in Iran.

While 5,000 guards from the Guard Corps have been merged with the law enforcement forces, Ahmad Rabi'i, the commander of the Guard Corps of Karaj region, announced this week that soon 15,000 Basijis will come face to face with the people of Karaj, Shahrier, Savojbelagh, and Rehat-e Karim to fight social corruption and prohibited acts. Commander Ahmad Rabi'i added: The personnel are from the Basij forces who have been organized in various troops and groups and in a dual-purpose organization with the Guard Corps of Karaj region, as the 'Ashura Patrol, in order to act in cases of the likely attack of civilian enemies, such as unexpected events.

The commander of the Karaj Guard Corps said: Attention to the Basij protects the Islamic revolution against the military and civilian attacks of the enemy and ensures the Islamic Republic.

On the other hand, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reports that the "admonitory group" in Qom has officially started its work to "spread Islamic culture and fight the invasion of the obscene culture of the West." The "admonitory group" in Qom is in charge of instruction to do good and preventing prohibited deeds.

Colonel Hoseyn 'Asheqi, the commander of the Qom law enforcement region, said in this regard that the officials of the seminaries, the Basij, and the special Guard Corps units must cooperate with the admonitory group in "joint planning." He said: This year 3,300 persons have been arrested in Qom "in connection with prohibited acts." Also, in order to "prevent the occurrence of crime" in Qom, 50 motorcycle riders, nine cars, and several "special patrols with vehicles, openly and secretly" operate and help the law enforcement.

Simultaneous with the escalation of the activities of the law enforcement forces in Qom, the people of that city, protesting the significant increase in taxi fares, engaged in demonstrations. As a result of these protests, the officials reduced the taxi fares, but drivers did not pay attention to this revision. A Qom taxi service official told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: "How can we convince the taxi drivers a month after the new rates have been put into effect that the officials have made a mistake?"

Advice by Ahmad Khomeyni

On the other hand, Ahmad Khomeyni in visits with the delegation of the Besijis, said: "If we want instruction to do good and preventing prohibited acts...to work, it is necessary to study the social conditions carefully...so that we would not, for example, commit a great sin while trying to prevent a prohibited act." He added: "With violence and whipping we cannot reform the society," and the communist regimes were first isolated and then overthrown for this reason." The son of Ruhollah Khomeyni added that the media must tell the truth to the people; otherwise, "Devils...will take undue advantage...the foreign media are more dangerous than domestic counterrevolution, because by their constant inculcation misguides public opinion."

Ahmad Khomeyni said that "repetition of religious and moral issues in a cliche form is not only ineffective but also will make the people react."

Government's Nuclear Aspirations Viewed

NC0912223392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Station commentary: "Nuclear Arms or Nuclear Energy?"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners. For some time now, the Islamic Republic regime's efforts to gain access to nuclear weapons has been reflected extensively in international publications and media. A year ago, reports of the regime's efforts to purchase and gain access to the basic and necessary equipment used for atomic weapons and of agreements with countries such as India, Pakistan, and the PRC were bandied about. We reported this at that time from the Voice of Iranian Kordestan as well as from our newspaper (?KORDESTAN) to our dear listeners. We also mentioned that a number of Pakistani experts are working at a site in Tehran to set up nuclear installations and produce nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Government, which has extensive reports on the clerical regime's nuclear program and has kept an eye on the regime's efforts in this regard by means of its intelligence organizations, announced that the clerical regime has taken serious steps regarding the project of producing nuclear weapons.

Experts and observers on nuclear issues have predicted that should this trend of manufacturing nuclear weapons continue at this rate and a decisive stance not be adopted in this regard, this regime will be transformed into a nuclear power in the next few years.

It is obvious that a regime such as Iran equipped with nuclear arms would only use them, first and foremost, to endanger the peace and security of the Middle East region, and subsequently, the world. In the past few years, the Islamic Republic has been seeking to expand its framework of domination by all means possible and establish its so-called Islamic empire. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic officials' position is interesting to note here. The Iranian leaders are in such a state of confusion that they are uttering contradictory statements in this regard. Each one seems to say something different on the subject. On the one hand, 'Ataollah Mohajerani, the Iranian vice president, speaks of the manufacture of the Islamic bomb and even gloats over the fact that much progress has been attained in this regard. On the other hand, the regime's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the head of the regime's Atomic Energy Organization vehemently deny these claims and attribute the outcry to Western plots. [passage omitted]

Claims by officials of the Islamic regime that they wish to produce electricity from nuclear technology are not only dubious from the point of view of foreign experts but also of the Iranian masses. According to investigations by nuclear experts, Iran should have spent $3 billion annually for equipment needed to produce nuclear weapons. Is it not possible that even a fraction of this heavy expenditure, which the Islamic Republic has allocated for access to nuclear weapons, could have been used to improve the condition of schools, hospitals, power, and water supplies in Iran?

It is no secret to anyone that claims by the regime's officials in this regard are nothing but an [words indistinct] and an attempt to mislead public opinion. The Islamic Republic is seeking to impose its domination on the region by all means possible and to fulfill the unrequited ambitions of the Pahlavi era. If the Islamic regime has not been able to attain its aim by exporting its revolution and sending thousands of its citizens, young and old, to the battlefronts, and spending large sums of money on its terrorist agents to other countries, it now wishes to attain its aspirations through nuclear weapons. In other words, it wants to implement its own version of Islam in this manner.

Budget To Be Submitted To Majles 15 Dec

LD0912140092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The nationwide budget for 1372 [year starting 21 March 1993] will be submitted to the Majles next Tuesday [15 December]. Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization, announced this news in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. We have a report on this interview about the special points in the state budget.

[Begin Rowghani-Zanjani recording] The figure for the general budget in the bill is about 24 trillion [currency unspecified], which has increased by about 100 percent compared to this year. Of course, I should add that this 100 percent increase is a result of the implementation of the single parity exchange rate, which will take effect next year. [passage omitted]

Out of this figure of 24 trillion—which has increased by 100 percent—9.45 trillion concerns development budgets, which has increased to 39 percent of the total budget—that is, the development budget is about 33 percent of the total budget this year, and next year it will be 39 percent. That is one of the special points of the budget. Naturally, 61 percent of the total budget concerns current budgets.

Of course, I should add that the exchange rate for essential foods, medicines, oil by-products, and defense products will continue to be calculated at this year's rate. That is because the subsidy and price of those goods is to remain the same next year. The price of those goods and services will not rise.

Another special point about this budget is the deficit. In the history of Iran's budgets—except for 1345 [1966-7]—there has always been a budget deficit. The 1372 budget deficit is zero. I hope that it will continue to be so. [passage omitted] [end recording]

* Nahavi Speaks Against Single Foreign Currency

91AS0224H London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] "Some people through not paying taxes have acquired huge amounts of capital disproportionate to their work, and they engage in purchases that are not suitable to the needs of the society. At the present time, only 5.8 percent of the gross national product comes from income taxes. This is the paradise of the wealthy. The government also uses the foreign currency to compensate for the shortcomings of the tax system and the management system."

These statements were made some time ago by Dr. Razzaqi, professor of economics, to the participants in a seminar to study the effects of creating a single foreign currency rate. Condemning a single foreign currency rate under the present economic conditions of the country, he told those present in the meeting: "Creating a single foreign currency rate will be detrimental for the new-found industries of the country, both in the government sector and the private sector. It will raise inflation treemendously and destroy the government's ability to pay subsidies." Continuing his speech, the above-mentioned official proposed a dual foreign currency system instead of the present system and said: "One of the two foreign currency rates must be proportionate to the rate of inflation for imports concerning industries and foodstuff, and the other foreign currency must be for consumers with higher incomes." He added: "The chosen developmental model, the weakness of management, the inclination to become wealthy, cash flow in the private sector, the exit of human and material capital, the tendency of experts to flock to high-paying jobs, and the failure of the income model to change are the major characteristics of the present economic system. Under such circumstances, creating a single foreign currency rate will merely simplify the problem and not work as an economic program."

In the meeting to study the effects of the single foreign currency rate, in addition to the participation of some of the experts and government officials of the Islamic regime, Behzad Nabavi, the former minister of heavy industries, was also present, and in a speech strongly criticized the foreign currency becoming a single rate under the present economic conditions. In his speech he pointed out implicitly that steps to make a single foreign currency rate is in adherence to the instructions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and said to those present:

"We should be suspicious of using the prescriptions of the World Bank in all countries equally. We should not be afraid to face changes in the world." He added: "Creating a single foreign currency rate will cause a decrease in investments and an increase in inflation and will reduce exports."

* New Appointments to Various Offices Announced

91AS0220A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAI in Persian 4 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Ahmad Edrisian was appointed the Iranian ambassador in Zimbabwe on the suggestion of the minister of foreign affairs with the approval of the president and began to work.

Also Mohammad Javad Iravani was appointed the Iranian ambassador to Qatar and began to work.

In the period after the revolution he had been minister of economic affairs and finance and deputy minister of the construction jihad.

Based on separate decrees by the minister of education, Hoseyn Tamanna'i was appointed the administrative affairs adviser and Asadollah Maddiran the director general of the Office of Organization and Methods and the Regional Councils of this ministry and began to work.

With a decree by the minister of commerce, Seyyed Mehdi Samadi was appointed the director general of bazars affairs of this ministry.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education announced: Dr. Hemmati, the deputy for cultural and parliamentary affairs of that ministry, was appointed the adviser to the minister and head of the machine services office. Thereby, the report of the appointment of Dr. Hemmati as the cultural, legislative and parliamentary deputy minister, which was published in issue 1001, is corrected.

With a decree by the Central Administration Office of Friday Imams, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Ebrahimi was appointed as the Friday imam of Khorramshahr in the province of Tehran.

* More New Appointments to Office Announced

93AS0220C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVAT in Persian 18 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] In separate decrees by 'Abdolhoseyn Vahaji, the minister of commerce, Mortaza Haji was appointed as adviser to the minister and general director and head of the board of directors of the National Sugar Company, and Mohsen Qasa'emi and Forouzanfar were appointed members of the board of directors of this company and began to work.

Issuing a decree, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance appointed Engineer 'Ezzatollah Zarghami as the legislative and parliamentary affairs deputy of this ministry.

Upon the suggestion of Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and the approval of the president, Engineer Abolfazl Khazri-Tarshizi was appointed as the extraordinary and fully authorized ambassador of Iran to New Zealand.

According to a report by the public relations office of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, in a decree by Engineer Mahluji, the minister of mines and metals, Majid Nekudast was appointed the director general of the public relations office of this ministry.

According to a decree by Dr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, Hoseyn Mo'tamni was appointed the director general of the personnel office of this ministry.

* City Hall Planning To Publish Prominent Daily

93AS0224D London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] The mayor of Tehran intends to engage in publishing a large daily newspaper to leave all of his rivals far behind. RESALAT, which has revealed this news, wrote that the City Hall has so far spent "hundreds of millions of rials" on this effort and hopes to employ distinguished reporters and writers of other presses by paying salaries "several times their present salary."

The press deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance considers the City Hall "permitted" to publish a newspaper. But RESALAT writes that in accordance with the Majles ratification of 29 Shahrivar 1365 [20 Sep 1986], the "allocation and payment of any sort of fund from public property and wealth or current and developmental funds by government establishments and companies...to publish newspapers is prohibited." RESALAT then writes that it is possible to say that the money that the City Hall pays for this is not part of the public domain. But the City Halls operate on the people's money and also uses general government funds.

RESALAT asks, "Do the people agree to have their taxes spent on the publication of a newspaper by the City Hall?" It adds: The people give money for urban services and not for publishing a newspaper.

* SALAM's Editor on Revolution, Hostages, War

93AS0224C London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with 'Abbas 'Abdi, editor of SALAM newspaper, by RAH-E FARDA magazine; place and date not given]

[Text] 'Abbas 'Abdi, one of the leaders of the "Students Following the Line of the Imam," who occupied the U.S. Embassy in Aban 1358 [Nov 1979] and took dozens of its diplomats and employees hostage, has revealed that the hostage taking was the "common bond" of all the forces that opposed the shah and the United States. In his opinion, the religious and leftist groups both participated in this action, each wanting to ride the wave that had risen.

'Abbas 'Abdi, who is now the editor of SALAM newspaper, in an interview with RAH-E FARDA magazine, said: "All groups—religious, nonreligious and leftist—thought that if the liberals stepped aside, it would be in their best interests."

He said: The occupation of the U.S. Embassy at the time and under those circumstances was a justified action to save the revolution from "deviation." But it is not correct to analyze the events of 13 years ago in the light of the present situation.

'Abdi said: The diplomatic presence of the United States in Iran is different from the presence of England and France. It gives hope to the counterrevolutionary forces. Hence, he still does not consider the establishment of relations with the United States in the interest of the Islamic Republic.

More interesting is the answer that the editor of SALAM gives to this question: If the shah's regime had become involved in a war with Iraq, what would be the result? His response is as follows: If the war had occurred during the rule of the shah, "it would certainly have inflicted more casualties on Iran, because Iraq in the war against us faced human forces, but during the shah's time, there were no human forces to be mobilized for defense, and the shah would have been obliged to use military defense, which would have been very costly. Considering the huge budget deficit that he would have faced if the war had occurred, the situation of Iran would have been worse than that of the war during the Islamic revolution." While openly placing more value on military equipment than the lives of the mobilization forces who were killed in the war, the editor of SALAM added that today "the conditions have changed a great deal. There is economic growth, stability and internal security.... In other words, any Iranian should be able to live in Iran and not feel alienated.... Under the present circumstances, in order to fight imperialism and colonialism, taking embassies neither solves any problem nor accomplishes anything else. Rather, creating economic development, internal unity, and for every Iranian to be able to serve and defend the country can open the path for the country."

While RAH-E FARDA magazine constantly uses the phrase "occupation of the U.S. Embassy," the interviewee often speaks of the "capture of the Spy Nest."

Pakistan

Foreign Office Denies PRC Supplying Missiles

BK1012121792 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Dec 92 p 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 9: A Foreign Office spokesman today described as "without substance or proof" a recent foreign press report that China had supplied two dozen sophisticated M-11 missiles to Pakistan.

Showing a press clipping to correspondents at his weekly Press briefing carrying Chinese official denial through REUTER news agency, the spokesman said that this was part of a conspiracy.

Such stories, particularly about Pakistan's nuclear programme, were "designed to damage Pakistan's relations with [word indistinct] close friendly countries, especially the United States and China", the spokesman said when he was asked to comment on this particular report which was originally carried by 'LOS ANGELES TIMES' in which the American newspaper had also said that these "dangerous missiles" which carry nuclear warheads were unloaded at Karachi port in the last two weeks.

This particular report, according to the spokesman, was intended to sabotage the forthcoming visit to Japan by Prime Minister

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif because it was going to be a success.

He said such reports were nothing else but "old conjectures" published for "ulterior motives".

A correspondent sought the comment of the spokesman on what he called "a coup" presently taking place in Kabul. In response the spokesman said there were lately some disturbances in the Afghan capital but these were not at serious nature as per the information it was receiving from Pakistan Embassy in Kabul, with which the Foreign Office was in constant touch.

Sharif, Ishaq Khan Meet Visiting U.S. Senators

Sharif on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue

BK1012113092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has reiterated that Pakistan will continue its moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people. Talking to the U.S. Senators Mr. David Boren, Mr. Claiborne Pell, and Carl Levin, in Islamabad today, the prime minister underscored the need for an immediate and peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue. He apprised the U.S. senators of the violation of human rights by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif assured them of Pakistan's commitment to the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia.

Referring to long-standing, close, and friendly relations between Pakistan and the United States, the prime minister expressed the need for continuing cooperation with the Democrat-led administration in future in the interest of securing peace, stability, and prosperity in our region. He briefed the senators on the regional situation and his government's policies, particularly economic reforms.

The senators reciprocated the feeling expressed by the prime minister for improving relations with the United States on a stable basis. They appreciated economic developments in Pakistan and its impressive (financial) growth rate.

Ishaq Khan on Mosque Demolition

BK0912144292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has called upon the world community to condemn the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] in the strongest possible terms. The president was talking to a delegation of the U.S. senators in Islamabad today. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan described the tragic demolition of Babri Masjid as despicable and said in this highly abominable incident, the inherent religious intolerance of Indian society has manifested itself in its true ugly colors. The president pointed out that the utter failure of the Indian authorities to take appropriate measures was violative of Liaqat-Nehru Pact, which mandated protection of Muslim minorities. The U.S. senators were also briefed about the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir by Indian troops.

During the meeting, a shared desire was expressed to remove misunderstanding between the United States and Pakistan and bring back bilateral relations to the cordial level of the past. The senators who called on the president were Mr. David Boren, Mr. Claiborne Pell, and Mr. Carl Levin.

More on Aftermath of Mosque Razing

Indian Missions Protected

BK0912145792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has appealed to the Muslims the world over, and particularly those in Pakistan, to offer special prayers on Friday for the safety and well-being of the Muslims in India. The prime minister said expression of sentiments of anguish by the people are natural. He reminded fellow

Muslims in Pakistan of their Islamic obligation to protect the lives, property, and places of worship of minorities living in Pakistan.

The prime minister today also issued a special directive to the administration to ensure full protection of Indian diplomatic missions in Pakistan and safety of their personnel. He said those violating the instructions should be firmly dealt with.

During his visit to Bahawalpur today, the prime minister appealed to the entire nation to exercise patience in the face of destruction of Babri Masjid [mosque]. The prime minister made a visit to Bahawalpur to inspect the arrangements for alternate employment to be provided to the cycle rickshaw drivers. A large number of people gathered when the prime minister arrived at the venue. People warmly welcomed the prime minister and thanked him for providing a dignified employment to the poor segment of the society. The prime minister assured the people that his government is striving hard to eliminate poverty, illiteracy, and injustice from the society. He said the mission of his government is to provide employment to each and every citizen.

The prime minister said the demolition of Babri Masjid has enraged the entire Muslim world. He condemned the sacrilegious act by Hindu extremists and said that the Babri Masjid should be reconstructed and lives and property of the Muslims in Indian should be protected.

Possibility of Islamic Meeting Noted

BK0912161392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] At a news briefing in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said police and security forces could not have reached all the places simultaneously because the Pakistani people's reaction to the demolition and desecration of Babri Mosque in Ayodhya was sentimental, spontaneous, and instant. He said besides demolishing the Babri Mosque, the frenzied Hindus also destroyed the homes of 4,000 Muslim families. These houses were marked three days before the tragic Ayodhya incidents. He said the massacre of Muslims and destruction of their homes at the hands of the frenzied Hindus have brought back the memories of the horrid events of 1947.

The spokesman also said that Pakistan is exploring the possibility of calling an extraordinary session of Islamic foreign ministers that could be held in Ankara or Jeddah. The Islamic countries are also exploring the possibility of raising this serious issue at appropriate forums of the United Nations, including the current session of the UN General Assembly and subsequently at the human rights commission.

Demolished Temples To Be Rebuilt

BK1012115992 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Dec 92 p 10

[By Ashraf Mumtaz]

[Text] Lahore, Dec 9: The Government would reconstruct all the temples demolished in various parts of the country and would bear all the expenditure required for the purpose. The temples which are being converted into mosques would also get their status restored without any delay, Religious Affairs Minister Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi told "DAWN" on Wednesday.

He said the lists of all temples razed or damaged would be prepared soon and thereafter their reconstruction would be undertaken without any delay.

Some Press reports suggested on Wednesday that about 100 temples had been either demolished or razed during the last few days.

Maulana Niazi was of the view that the elements who were so enthusiastically busy in pulling down the sacred places of the Hindus were in fact 'saboteurs' who were out to defame the Pakistan Government.

Condemning these elements in the strongest possible terms, the minister warned them of a stern action if they did not stop their nefarious activities.

He said the Babri Mosque could not be compared with the Hindu temples nor the damage caused by the razing of the mosque could be compensated by demolishing the temples.

Maulana Niazi also said that what was being described as "Shaheed Ganj Mosque" (situated in Landa Bazaar of Lahore) was in fact, a temple and the government would restore its original status without any [words indistinct].

Some people had opened it for prayer yesterday on the plea that it was a mosque, though abandoned for the last several decades.

Meanwhile, a former Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court has criticised the demolition of temples and bid by some elements to lay foundation of mosques on those places.

A temple is a temple and in no way can be converted into a mosque, Justice Aftab Hussain said while talking to this correspondent.

Demolition of temples was also a manifestation of the failure of the government in the discharge of its constitutional obligations, he said. He pointed out that it was the religious and constitutional duty of a government to protect the sacred places of the minorities at all costs.

The former Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court recalled the incident when Hazrat Umar (RA) had refused to offer prayer in a church at Baitul Maqdas after its conquest on the fear that such an act might be used by the posterity to convert the place into a mosque.

About the justification of the Muslims living in the temples, Justice Aftab Hussain said this issue had become

very old. A large number of people had started using the temples as their residences caring little that a temple was after all a temple, he said.

Opposition Not To Attend Meeting

BK1012114392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Dec. 9: The opposition political parties which are attending the all parties meet on the call of Pakistan Democratic Party Chief Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan here Wednesday decided not to attend the All Parties Conference, convened by the Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on the issue of Babri Mosque.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Tigers Renew Offer for Peace Talks

BK0612091492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Colombo, Dec 6 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas Sunday demanded a ceasefire and renewed an offer of direct peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government to end the island's dragging ethnic conflict.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) claimed it was making the truce offer after having militarily weakened the government to a position of a stalemate in the 20-year-old guerrilla campaign for a separate Tamil homeland.

The LTTE's Paris-based spokesman, Lawrence Thilakar, said in a telephone interview that they had been "passing the message" to Colombo through unnamed non-governmental organizations and government representatives.

"I can say that the government could have realized that it can't solve the problem militarily, and on that realization the government has been pushed to come for negotiations," Thilakar told AFP.

He said they were imposing no conditions for talks but at the same time argued that any settlement to the conflict should be on the basis of self-determination and take into consideration the "entirety of the Tamil homeland."

We have always been insisting that talks should be unconditional and there must be a proper climate and conducive conditions for talks. Therefore there must be a ceasefire and consequently there must be talks," he said.

The remark came amid official optimism that a solution would be reached by the end of the year to Sri Lanka's protracted conflict, which has claimed thousands of lives and stifled economic growth.

"So far there has been no signal from the government about the direct negotiation with the LTTE," Thilakar said however.

Political observers said the Tigers were either seeking breathing room after suffering considerable casualties—as many as it had inflicted on the military—or were trying to build an image as peacemakers.

The Tigers have called the shots with successful attacks even in the capital and therefore the peace overtures could be aimed at showing the international community that the LTTE was keen to end the stalemate, observers said.

Thilakar insisted that they were always willing to talk peace and said the LTTE was prepared to study any proposal of the ongoing parliamentary select committee (PSC) trying to hammer out a consensus on minority Tamil demands.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party and the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, which account for about 90 percent of the Sinhalese electorate, have said they would go along with the PSC consensus.

"It is up to the government to find a consensus or not. ...(If) it can, we are ready for (direct) negotiations," Thilakar said.

He described as a "blockade" the government's demands that Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran come for talks after first agreeing to surrender arms and recognise the rights of other Tamil parties.

The LTTE responded to a peace offer by Premadasa in April 1989 but talks failed after 14 months, leading to fresh bloodletting in the northeast where Tigers are fighting to establish a separate state called Eelam.

In January 1991, the LTTE offered a unilateral ceasefire, which ended after 10 days with each side accusing the other of violating it. Thilakar claimed that since then, the military balance has shifted in their favour.

He said rival Tamil parties that were currently cooperating with Colombo in its drive against the LTTE were a hindrance to a solution. "They represent only themselves," he said referring to rival Tamil parties.

The LTTE has systematically driven out other Tamil groups, especially from the island's north where they dominate.

LTTE Said Punishing Cadres To Halt Desertion

BR0912131192 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have resorted to beheading and long-term imprisonment of its cadres in a bid to prevent desertion and insubordination in its ranks. According to reports from

Vavuniya, four young boys who deserted from an LTTE training camp at Omanthai were beheaded by the senior cadres two weeks ago after the youngsters were tracked down from their hiding places. Three more were imprisoned for one year. [Word indistinct] identified as being given a Pakistani visa for failing to carry out orders given by the high rankers. Those imprisoned for one year from 28 November were named Jeeva, Poonan, and Manivannan. A senior officer of the security forces said that they were aware of the incidents and that the LTTE appear to be having a major problem of desertion among its cadres. He said the Tigers resorted to such draconian measures as beheading and imposing of one-year imprisonment term for new cadres implied that the terrorists were trying to prevent desertion and insubordination in the ranks by striking terror into the hearts of their new cadres. He also cited the recent effort by Tiger leader Prabhakaran to conscript ex-servicemen in the peninsula as an attempt to consolidate its ranks dwindled by desertion and decimation during attacks on the security forces. The officer also said that recent LTTE communication intercepts indicated that the Tigers (Thide) from the Jaffna public the actual number of their cadres killed in action.

Parliament Speaker Lauds India's 'Timely Action'

BK0912134092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament, M.H. Mohamed, in a message to the Indian prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that he is glad that he had taken timely action to avoid a further breakdown of law and order in Ayodhya after the attack by Hindu militants. In his letter, he further says that he is deeply shocked and grieved to learn of the attack by a group of Hindu militants on the ancient mosque in Ayodhya. This high-handed act by this aggressive group will hamper the efforts taken by Mr. Narasimha Rao and the Indian Government to bring about an amicable and peaceful solution to the issue. He said that the Indian prime minister's timely intervention will no doubt avoid a further breakdown of law and order in the area. The Muslims in Sri Lanka are confident that under the prime minister's leadership, there will be a lasting settlement in the interests of the two communities. The action of these Hindu extremists stands condemned in the eyes of all who respect other religions.

Police Attack Demonstrators at Human Rights Rally

BK1012115292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1032 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Colombo, Dec 10 (AFP)—Sri Lankan police beat up journalists, teargassed demonstrators marking Human Rights Day and briefly detained two opposition legislators here Thursday, witnesses said. About five high-ranking opposition activists and a press photographer were in hospital nursing broken limbs and bruises after police dragged them through the streets and hit them with batons, a reporter at the scene said.

"They (the police) set upon us without any provocation. They targetted us even though we identified ourselves as media personnel," said one journalist who was hit with batons.

Opposition legislators Vasudeva Nanayakkara and Mahinda Rajapakse were taken into police custody and released after recording their statements at a police station nearby.

The two MPs were leading the demonstration by parents and relatives of thousands of people who have disappeared during the government's crackdown on Sinhalese militants since 1987.

Many of women from the Mothers' Front, a group agitating for more information about their children taken away by security forces or violents groups, were prevented from joining Thursday's demonstration.

Reporters saw police tearing up placards carried by some women who tried to walk up to the Slave Island roundabout to take part in the sit-in demonstration.

A report submitted by foreign human rights activists to the European Parliament in 1990 estimated that some 60,000 people were either missing or dead during a three year period from 1987.

A journalist victim telephoned the cabinet press conference room to inform colleagues and government spokesman and Industries Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe who promised an inquiry into the incident.

About 100 screaming mothers and journalists fled the teargas attack and Lalith Weliwitigoda, a photographer from THE SUNDAY TIMES was badly beaten after he was dragged out of a nearby house where he had taken refuge. The cameramen charged that police had targetted them in a bid to prevent photo coverage. A spokesman for the organisers said five of their top men were in hospital.

Media personnel have frequently borne the brunt of previous police attacks on meetings organised by Rajapakse and Nanayakkara, both vocal opposition legislators.